THURSDAY
December 22, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
14 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.53 • No.301

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

FM'S ASSERTION

Targeted relief saved India from recession

NEWS » PAGE 9

DOKRA FIGURINES

Bengal village basks in the glory of ancient metalcraft

NEWS » PAGE 10

SUPERIOR FIREPOWER

U.S. to send Patriot missiles to Ukraine

WORLD » PAGE 11

ACCESS FOR ALL

The need to make cancer drugs affordable

Invoking Section 100 of Patents Act the best bet

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

IN FOCUS

Kuldeep & Co. will look to spin a web

SPORT » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Govt. mulls over bringing back airport screening

BENGALURU
Owing to a rise in COVID-19 cases in many countries, the BBMP is considering making COVID-appropriate behaviour compulsory again, including the screening of international passengers at the airport.
» PAGE 3

Panchamasalis' deadline ends today

BELAGAVI
The Panchamasali reservation agitation committee has set a deadline of 11 a.m. on Thursday for the BJP government to announce their inclusion in Category 2A of the State OBC list. » PAGE 4

Omicron variant linked to China spike sequenced in India in July

BF.7 identified in four cases in Gujarat and Odisha in the subsequent months, but it was not linked to increased severity or infectiousness, say officials; Health Minister directs strengthening of virus surveillance, urges people to get vaccinated

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The BF.7 variant of coronavirus, believed to be linked to the surge in COVID-19 cases in China, was identified in India as far back as July.

Four instances of the Omicron subvariant was genome-sequenced in Gujarat and Odisha in the subsequent months, but it was not linked to increased severity or infectiousness in the two States, two officials who were part of a meeting convened by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said.

With the rise in cases in China triggering a global alarm, Mr. Mandaviya had convened a meeting of senior officials in the government and the National COVID-19 Task Force to assess the situation in India.

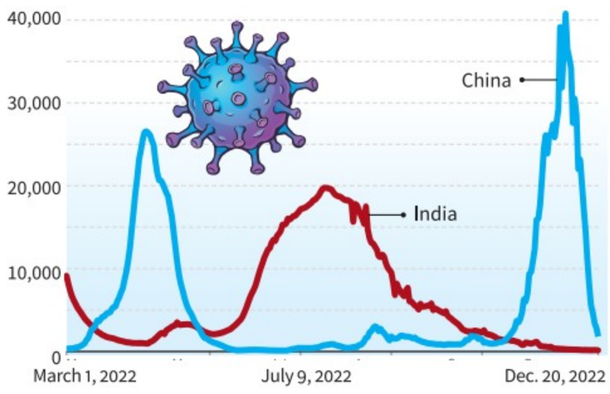
The officials said while the spike in China did not yet imply a grave threat for India, it was advisable that people follow COVID-appropriate behaviour and get vaccinated and that States should increase genomic surveillance. Some States have said they will increase random testing of passengers at airports.

"I have directed all concerned to strengthen surveillance. I also urge people to get vaccinated," Mr. Mandaviya said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Case comparison

The chart compares the seven-day average number of daily COVID-19 cases in India and China in the past 10 months. China recorded two COVID waves in this period, the latest bigger than the first



Virus shield: A woman receives COVID-19 vaccine in China on Wednesday. AFP

Follow COVID protocols or suspend yatra: Mandaviya

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A raging controversy has broken out between the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government and the Congress over Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that he must either follow strict COVID-19 guidelines or suspend his Bharat Jodo Yatra in the "interest of the country".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Unemployment and inflation hurting the country, says Rahul

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Unemployment and inflation are the biggest issues hurting the country, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday after his Bharat Jodo Yatra crossed into Haryana from Rajasthan. He added that the yatra was a fight against hatred.

Addressing a gathering at Nuh, Mr. Gandhi said that during the course of the yatra, he had come across thousands of qualified youth who were unemployed. "I met engineers, doctors and a few who wanted to work in judiciary, but they did not have jobs. They were forced to drive taxis or do menial jobs," he said.

The Congress leader attacked the BJP saying that while one ideology had given benefits to only a select few, another had been the voice of farmers and labourers. The fight between the two had been going on for thousands of years, he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Nuh district of Haryana on Wednesday. PTI

The yatra will pass through Nuh, Gurugram and Faridabad in Haryana over the next three days before entering Delhi on December 24.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Selecting UPSC, SSC and RRB candidates for government jobs

3.78 In lakh, the number of candidates who were selected for Central government jobs by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Railway Recruitment Board (RRBs) in the last five years. The government has issued instructions to all departments for the timely filling up of vacant posts. PTI

Growth to ₹2.65 lakh crore in India's auto components industry

34.8 In percentage, the growth in India's auto components industry to ₹2.65 lakh crore in the first-half of 2022-23, riding on domestic demand, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) informed. During this period, exports of components grew by 8.6% to ₹79.03 lakh crore, while imports climbed up to ₹79.8 lakh crore. PTI

Special trains for Kerala to cater to the Christmas rush

51 The number of special trains to Kerala announced by the Indian Railways to cater to the extra rush of passengers during the upcoming Christmas-New Year season. The Southern Railways announced 17 special train services to different places in Kerala for the festive season. These special trains will be operating from December 22, 2022, to January 2, 2023. PTI

Yet another massive military package for Ukraine from the U.S.

1.8 In $ billion, the military aid to be sent by the U.S. to Ukraine in a massive package that will for the first time include a Patriot missile battery and precision-guided bombs for their fighter jets, according to U.S. officials. The package will include about $1 billion in weapons from Pentagon stocks and $800 million in funding through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. AP

A record number of immigration applications processed

4.8 In million, the record number of immigration applications processed in Canada, till the end of November 2022, the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed. In a statement, the IRCC informed how immigration helped build the country and remained key to the country's success. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The INS Mormugao and its capabilities

What are the features of the Visakhapatnam-class destroyers? How is the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet a shot in the arm for the nation's self-reliance efforts? How will the warship be a strategic advantage for the country in the Indian Ocean region where China is rapidly expanding its influence?

EXPLAINER

Sumeda

The story so far:

In a boost to the country's maritime capabilities, INS Mormugao has officially joined the Indian Navy's fleet, marking a significant milestone for indigenous military expedition. The warship 'Yard 12705', named after the Goan port city of Mormugao, is the second of the four Visakhapatnam-class destroyers being built under the Indian Navy Project 15B, or P15B. The destroyer has multi-dimensional combat capabilities which include surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles and modern surveillance radar.

What is Project 15B?

Project 15 was launched in the 1990s to add guided missile destroyers to the inventory of the Indian Navy. The project was named 'Delhi class'. It was followed by Project 15A or Kolkata class which primarily focused on advanced technology and equipment in surface ships. Project 15B or the Visakhapatnam class is a follow-on class of weapon-intensive Project 15A destroyers. The project was launched in January 2011 to incorporate advanced design concepts such as state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, advanced stealth features and a high degree of automation for "improved survivability, sea keeping, stealth and manoeuvrability". The lead ship of Project 15B, INS Visakhapatnam, was the first of the class to be commissioned. Besides INS Mormugao, the other two destroyers are expected to be commissioned between 2023 and 2025.

What are the capabilities of INS Mormugao?

Regarded as "one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in the country", the destroyer is 163 metres long, 17 metres wide and displaces 7,400 tonnes when fully loaded. The ship is propelled by four gas turbines in a combined gas and gas (COGAG) configuration. The propulsion system allows the ship to achieve a speed of more than 30 knots (50km/h) and a maximum range of 4,000 nautical miles. It can accommodate a crew of about 300 personnel.

Into the waters: INS Mormugao docked at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on the eve of its commissioning into the Indian Navy. AFP

INS Mormugao's firepower comprises BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles (SSM), Barak-8 surface-to-air (SAM) missiles for a long range of shore and sea-based targets and a 76mm super rapid gun mount. The ship is armed with RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launchers and 533mm torpedo launchers. It is also equipped to carry and operate multi-role helicopters. Its enhanced stealth features ensure a reduced Radar Cross Section or radar signature.

It is automated with sophisticated digital networks such as the Gigabyte Ethernet-based Ship Data Network (GESDN), the Combat Management System (CMS), Automatic Power Management System (APMS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) and Ship Data Network (SDN). While the CMS performs threat evaluation and resource allocation based on the tactical picture compiled and ammunition available onboard, APMS controls power management. IPMS is used to control and monitor machinery and auxiliaries and the SDN is the 'information highway for data' from sensors and weapons. The ship has multiple fire zones, battle damage control systems, distributional power systems to enhance survivability in emergencies and a total atmospheric control system to protect the crew against nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

Built with over 75% indigenous content, the commissioning of INS Mormugao is a shot in the arm for India's self-reliance efforts and crucial for the 15-year Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan (INIP) 2015-2030 implemented in 2014 for indigenous development of its resources, equipment and to make the nation self-reliant in defence technology.

What is the strategic importance?

While India's interests are closely tied to the Indian Ocean, China has been rapidly expanding its naval footprint in the region.

Amid growing Chinese strategic interests, India renewed its focus on bolstering its maritime capabilities in the region to counter the threat.

During the commissioning ceremony of INS Mormugao, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reiterated the government's resolve to prepare the nation to deal with any situation arising due to the changing global scenario. "Economic, political and trade relations between countries are constantly evolving. The COVID-19 pandemic, the situation in the Middle East, Afghanistan and now Ukraine. It directly or indirectly impacts every country in one way or another. In this era of globalisation, almost all nations are dependent on each other in the field of trade. Hence, rule-based freedom of navigation, security of sea lanes etc. have become more important than ever for stability and economic progress of the world," he said.

The addition of a technologically advanced stealth warship to the naval inventory provides a strategic advantage to India and adds to the combat capabilities of the armed forces. Besides surface operations, guided missile destroyers are capable of engaging in anti-aircraft and anti-submarine warfare.

THE GIST

- INS Mormugao has officially joined the Indian Navy's fleet, marking a significant milestone for indigenous military expedition. The warship 'Yard 12705', named after the Goan port city of Mormugao, is the second of the four Visakhapatnam-class destroyers being built under Project 15B.
- INS Mormugao's firepower comprises BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles (SSM), Barak-8 surface-to-air (SAM) missiles and a 76mm super rapid gun mount. The ship is armed with RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launchers and 533mm torpedo launchers. It is also equipped to carry and operate multi-role helicopters.
- The addition of a technologically advanced stealth warship to the naval inventory provides a strategic advantage to India and adds to the combat capabilities of the armed forces.

What is the latest clash between AAP and the Delhi L-G?

Why did the Supreme Court mandate the institution of a Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising? How has the Aam Aadmi Party reacted to allegations of excessive spending on advertisements?

Mehul Malpani

The story so far:

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to implement a 2016 order of the Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA). The order calls for recovering ₹97.14 crore plus interest from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for "political advertisements" published or telecast as government advertisements in 2015 and 2016. The move added to the long list of escalations between the AAP-led Delhi government and the L-G.

What is the CCRGA?

A three-member body, the CCRGA was formed by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in April, 2016, on the directions of the Supreme Court in its judgment in the *Common Cause vs. Union of India* case in May, 2015. The body is set up to regulate the content of Central and State government advertisements in all media platforms. The SC had also mandated States to constitute their own respective bodies. While some States have set up committees to regulate public advertising content, some have given consent to the CCRGA to monitor their advertisements.

The SC, in its order had also issued a set of guidelines for public-funded advertising by governments. Some of the guidelines mentioned include that government advertising should maintain political neutrality and avoid glorification of political personalities or projecting a positive impression of the party in power or a negative impression of parties critical of the government. They also should not be used at patronising media houses.

What is the CCRGA's 2016 order?

Months after its formation, the CCRGA, following a complaint from Congress leader Ajay Maken, issued notices to the Delhi government on allegations of violation of the SC-mandated guidelines in publishing advertisements.

In its response, the Delhi government informed the CCRGA that it was going to form a committee of its own as per the 2015 order of the SC, which mandated that States have to set up their own respective bodies to regulate government advertisements' content. Mr. Maken meanwhile had also approached the Delhi High Court in the matter, which ruled in August, 2016, that Union Territories are not authorised to constitute their own committees and will therefore, come under the jurisdiction of the CCRGA. The CCRGA, after its investigation, passed an order on September 16, 2016, ruling that a number of Delhi government advertisements had violated the guidelines on various fronts such as publishing false/misleading ads, mentioning the party in power by name, self-glorification and targeting political opponents. The committee also directed the Delhi government's Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP), which issues government campaigns, to identify specific advertisements, quantify the money spent on them, and recover it from the AAP.

After quantifying an amount of ₹97,14,69,137 spent on these advertisements, the DIP on March 30, 2017, directed AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal to pay ₹42,26,81,265 to the State exchequer immediately, and to release the remaining amount directly to the agencies/publications which ran the advertisements within 30 days.

What has been the AAP's response?

The AAP has been at the receiving end of political criticism, with rival parties accusing it of spending huge sums of money on government advertising campaigns and publicity. However, the party, since forming the government in 2015, has been defending its spending on advertisements stating that it is for public knowledge of different government schemes and various awareness campaigns.

THE GIST

- The Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the implementation of a 2016 order of the Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising. The order calls for recovering ₹97.14 crore plus interest from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for "political advertisements".
- The AAP party however, has been defending its spending on advertisements stating that it is for the public knowledge of different government schemes and various awareness campaigns.
- A three-member body, the CCRGA was formed by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in April, 2016, to regulate the content of Central and State government advertisements in all media platforms.

#THtalksBengaluru: Questions about city traffic? Ask M.A. Saleem

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From vehicles violating one-ways to parking in no-parking zones, Bengaluru's traffic problems have risen as rapidly as the city has grown.

On Saturday, the man tasked with resolving these issues - M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner, Traffic - will answer your questions as he participates in #THtalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. You can send in your questions to us via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on our Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat.

Watch this space for more.

Man poses as traffic policeman, collects fines from vehicle owners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division cybercrime police are on the lookout for a man who, posing as a traffic policeman, was collecting fines from vehicle owners.

The racket came to light when one of the owners, identified as Udit Sood, contacted the police on their social media account to cross check.

The traffic management database administration section checked to find that the accused had been operating for some time.

Based on a complaint by Jagadisha C., database administrator at the traffic management centre, the police registered a case against the accused charging him under various sections of the IT Act and are trying to track down the accused, based on the contact number and the bank account he was using.

Offenders try to beat tech by covering number plates to avoid traffic fines

Until November 30, as many as 3,68,361 cases have been booked against motorists for having defective registration number plates on their vehicles

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

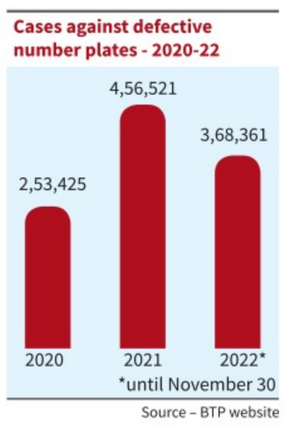
As the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) strengthen digital enforcement using hi-tech cameras that capture number plates, drivers who break rules are getting creative with some of them covering half of their number plates with paint/plastic tapes and stickers.

Over the last few weeks, many social media users have posted pictures of such offenders from different parts of the city , including Malleswaram and Jayanagar.

"I usually take pictures and upload it to the Public Eye platform when I notice traffic violations on roads. Lately, I have seen people covering their number plates, especially college students. This helps them escape fines. The BTP should find a way to stop this," said Prashanth Kumar (name changed), a resident of Uttarahalli.

A motorist riding a two-wheeler without the number plate in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

When asked what will be done to tackle this problem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), M.A. Saleem said, "The Indian Motor Vehicles (IMV) Act is very clear on this. Whenever we notice number plates with any kind of defects, we book cases against them. In fact, we have been very tough on these people to a large extent. At junctions, where our traffic officers are present, such vehicles are immediately caught."



Source – BTP website

In a tweet on Wednesday, Kuldeep Kumar Jain, DCP (Traffic), West, said the BTP is closely watching such offenders and penalising them. In the last week, 10 such vehicles have been identified and fined, he said.

Despite repeated awareness programmes, the problem of defective number plates with wrong fonts, organisation names, stickers, emblems, and pictures are rampant in the city. According to statistics available on the BTP website, 3,68,361 cases have been booked for riding with defective registration number plates until November 30, this year. While 2,53,425 cases were booked for the same in the lockdown year of 2020, 4,56,521 cases were booked in the previous year.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Certificate (s) for Folio No 09221441. Cert No 86263. Dist. No 4184402 to 4184451, Qty 50. Cert No 243540, Dist. No 142779031 to 142779080, Qty 50. Cert No 362271, Dist. No 578225310 to 578225409, Qty 100. Cert No 456359, Dist. No 619643432 to 619643531, Qty 100. Total 300 Equity Shares of Larsen & Toubro Ltd standing in the name of S.V Ravindra # 95/5, 6 main road, 15 th cross next regalia app, Malleshwaram Bangalore - 560003. has/have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned has / have applied to the Company to issue duplicate Certificate(s) for the said shares. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares should write to our Registrar, KFin Technologies Limited. Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Hyderabad-500032 within one month from this date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date -21.12.22

S. V Ravindra
95/5, 6 Main Road, 15th Cross Next Regalia App, Malleshwaram
Bangalore -560003

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. PRADEEP KUMAR .C, S/o. Sathyanarayana having interest to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Mr. K.S. Suna Miandad, S/o. K.S. Sameeulla, R/at:- No.1096, 7th 'A' Main, 1st Stage, B.T.M. Layout, Bangalore-560 029

If any person/s, financial institutions, Banks etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed further for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Converted residential Site No.125, Khata No.3619/336/P1/125, measuring East to West 40 ft. & North to South 20 ft., total measuring 800 Sq. Ft., curved in Sy. No. 336/P1, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, conversion order No. BDS/ALN/SR(S): 344/2003-2004 dated 22/12/2003, and bounded on: East by : Road, West by : Site No.158. North by : Site No.124. South by :Site No.126.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 21-12-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr.N.Keshava Murthy, son of late M.Narasirnhaiah, No.19/385, "Akshaya", 42nd Cross, 9th Main, 5th Block, Jayanagar, BENGALURU-560 041, is the sole and absolute owner of the Property which is more fully described in the Schedule hereto. My client though is the absolute owner, has misplaced/lost All the document with regards to the Schedule Property along with Passport No.K8807843, Old No.E4606227 and Insurance Policy No.0058570318, issued by Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Ltd., and is not in a position to trace the original documents of title. My client has also informed the concerned police station of the aforesaid loss/misplaced original documents and has requested the jurisdictional police to return the documents in the event of the same being either traced or someone delivered.

Any person/s finding the aforesaid documents or having the original documents with regard to the aforesaid property, Passport and Insurance Policy, under any agreement or arrangement, may return the originals or may write to the undersigned if they have any claim on the original documents in any manner whatsoever.

SCHEDULE

All that Residential Property bearing Municipal No.385/19, situated at 42. 'A' Cross, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, measuring East to West:50 Feet and North to South:75 Feet, in all measuring 3750 Square Feet and bounded as follows:-

On the East : Property bearing No.384;
West : Property bearing No.386;
North : Road;
South : Property bearing Nos.368 and 367;

Place : Bangalore

(K.S.MADANA GOPAL)
Advocate
No.1, Ground Floor, ROYAL PARK, No.34, Park Road, BENGALURU - 560 051.
Ph.No.22864065/22868046

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU (Hrg: 25-01-2023)
O.S. No. 25667/2020 (CCCH No. 58)

BETWEEN: Residents Welfare Association, Bangalore East (Rewabe) and another, Housing its office at No.21, Millon strud, Bengaluru-560005... **PLAINTIFF**

Jai Shankar and others ... DEFENDANTS

COURT NOTICE DEFENDANT NO. 1 & 2

DEFENDANT No. 1. Sri. Jai Shankar, S/o late Muniswamy, aged about 47 years, R/at No.37, 2nd Cross, Hutchins Road, St. Thomas Town, Bengaluru-560084. **DEFENDANT No.2 - The Commissioner Bengaluru Development Authority,** No.7, T Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit seeking the relief of Declaration to declare that the suit schedule property is a civic amenities site and also seeking permanent injunction restraining the Defendant No. 1 from creating any third party rights in respect of Plaint Schedule against you. The Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge Court (CCCH No. 58) at Bengaluru vide order dated 19-06-2020 allowed IA. No II and in view of the facts and circumstances of the above case the Applicants/plaintiffs are hereby granted leave to institute and prosecute the suit in a representative capacity for the benefit of the residents of Cooke Town and its suburbs and the applicants/plaintiffs are hereby directed to issue paper publication of the institution of this suit in the interest of justice and equity. The Defendants have already appeared in the matter, However we are complying with the Directions of the Hon'ble court by issuing paper publication of the institution of the suit.

PLAINT SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of triangular piece of land bearing Sy No. 83/2 located in Hutchins Road, 2nd Cross, MEG JCO Colony. Jaibharat Nagar, Maruthi Sevanagar, Ward 59, Bengaluru 560033 measurting North to south west 42.7 Feet, South West to east 173.82 feet and North to east 182.5 in total 3920.00 sq. feet bounded on the **North by:** 2nd Cross Hutchins Road, **West by:** Private Road, **South by:** School Compound wall and school Ground ,**East by:** Being a triangular property joins the compound wall at Hutchins Road.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 20-12-2022.

By order of the Court, 57th Addl City Civil & Sessions Judge City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
SREEVATSA ASSOCIATES
No.50, II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore.

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi

Ref. VTU/BGM/SAP/CW5/T-518 &T-488/2022-23/ 5183 dtd.19-12-2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites e-tenders (two cover systems) for the following works through e-procurement tendring mode.

Sl No :1:Name of the tenders:T-518 Tender for Procurement of Reasearch Equipments to Dept. of Nanotechnolgy, VTU CPGS,Muddenahalli under VGST- CESEM (L2) Grants, Estimated Amount:Rs.5,94,366/-, EMD Amount:Rs.15,000/-, Sl No :2:Name of the tenders:T-488:Tender for Procurement of Reasearch Equipments to Dept. of Nanotechnolgy, VTU CPGS, Muddenahalli under VGST-CESEM (L2) Grants, Estimated Amount:Rs.12,74,400/-,EMD Amount: Rs.32,000/-.

Last date for receipt of tender: 03-01-2023 up to 2.30 pm. Date of opening of tender: 04-01-2023 at 4.00 p.m. The details regarding participation in the e-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our VTU website: www.vtu.ac.in and e-procurement portal website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1417/MCA/2022-23

Sd/-Registrar

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South),
BBMP, South Zone, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar,
2nd Blcok, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: SADH(S)/TENDER/15/2022-23 Date: 21-12-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement Works in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1 & KW-2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Improvements to Park and Landscaping in Ward No. 161, Attiguppe. **(Call-2) - (ST)**	**30.00**	**30,000/-**
2	Improvements to Park and Landscaping in Ward No. 159, Hampinagar. **(Call-2) - (SC)**	**10.00**	**12,500/-**
3	Improvements to Park and Landscaping in Ward No. 164, Avalahalli. **(Call-2) - (SC)**	**10.00**	**12,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 23-12-2022. 2)** Date of Tender Closing: **31-12-2022 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **02-01-2023 at 11.30 AM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **SRI.THAMMANAPPA** S/o Late A. Munishamappa, residing at: Tindlu Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land measuring 02 Acres 24 Guntas and 09 Guntas of Kharab in Sy No.20/1, situated at Kamenahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on:

East by : Halla
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.19/1
North by : Land belongs to Sri.Armugam
South by : Land belongs to Sri.Anjinappa

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that my client has intended to purchase the Schedule Properties (more fully described in the schedule below and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property") from the owners namely 1) Sri. Ramesh Son of late Sri Kadappa, residing at No.52, Heggadagere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, & District-562109, 2) Sri. S. Jeevan son of Late Sri. Shivanna residing at Ittamadu Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, & District-562109, 3) Sri. Sathyamurthy Son of Sri. Gowdaiah residing at No.832/100/1417, Yogeshwara Layout, Bidadi Town, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District ("The Land Owners").

Any persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, succession, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the documents, to the undersigned address within a period of 14 (Fourteen) days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the below mentioned agricultural land parcels comprised in survey number measuring extent & boundaries as detailed below, situated at Heggadagere Village Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District.

Sr. No	Survey No	Extent Acre/s	Extent Gunta/s	Boundaries	Owner
1.	52/4	00	0.20.00	East: Land in Sy No. 53/8 & Sy No. 53/9 West: Land in Sy No. 52/5 & Sy No 52/10 North: Land in Sy No.52/9 & Sy No. 51 South: Land in Sy No.52/10	Sri. Ramesh Son of late Sri Kadappa & Others
2.	52/8	00	0.09.00	East: Land in Sy No. 52/3 & Sy No. 52/9 West: Road North: Land in Sy No.52/1 South: Land in Sy No.52/5	Sri. S. Jeevan son of Late Sri. Shivanna
3.	52/9	00	0.04.00	East: Land in Sy No.51 West: Land in Sy No. 52/8 North: Land in Sy No.52/3 South: Land in Sy No. 52/4	Sri. S. Jeevan son of Late Sri. Shivanna
4.	53/11	00	0.12.00	East: Land in Sy No.53/10 West: Land in Sy No. 53/9 North: Land in Sy No.53/5 & 53/653/4 South: Land in Sy No. 54/2	Sri. S. Jeevan son of Late Sri. Shivanna
5.	53/9	00	0.16.00	East: Land in Sy No.53/11 West: Land in Sy No. 52/4, 52/10 & Sy no 53/2 North: Land in Sy No.53/6, 53/7 & Sy No. 53/8 South: Land in Sy No. 54/2	Sri. Sathyamurthy Son of Sri. Gowdaiah

Dated this, the 21st day of December, 2022

Manjunatha Reddy. R,
VANYA & ASSOCIATES, Advocates and Consultants
No.1932, 15th A Cross, 9th Main Road, Judicial layout, GKVK Post,
Bangalore – 560 065 | Email: vanyaassociates@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA,
Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara,
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District.

No.: EE/RDWS&SD/HRP/JJM/E-Proc Tender/JE/2022-23/1809 Dated:20.12.2022

E-tender Notification-18/2022-23.
(KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet hereby invites the tender for FY-2022-23 JJM FHTC Retrofitting, in Harapanahalli 13 Works, H.B.Halli, Hoovinahadagali, Kudligi 75Works, & Hospet Talukas of Vijayanagara District through e-procurement. The information regarding tenders will be made available in **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** website. The period to receive the tender from eligible bidders is from **21.12.2022 to 30.12.2022 at 5.00PM** and date of **opening of technical bid is on 31.12.2022 at 5.05PM**, **opening of Financial bid is on 02.01.2023 at 11.00 AM & Pre bid meeting is held on 28.12.2022 at 11.00 AM** in the office of Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Vijayanagara District, Hospete Tq. For further more information contact above said Office...

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District
DIPR/Vijayanagar/292/MCA/2022-23

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSURU
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irvin Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.)
Website:www.mmcri/karnataka.gov.in Email:mmcrimysore@yahoo.com

No.Sup/CR/ENT/95/2022-23 Date:20.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Tender for the supply of Equipments to the K.R. Hospital, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.

The Short Term Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the Supply of Equipments to the K.R. Hospital, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website:**https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **21.12.2022** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **28.12.2022 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D will be rejected.

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean,
Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/802/2022-23

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K. R. Circle,
Bangalore - 01. Phone : 080-2213 3370, Fax : 080-2213 3365
Email : eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com Web : www.kpwd.gov.in
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Notification No. : 38/2022-23 Date : 19-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Lumpsum Tender for the Work **"The Quotation called for non SR item rates for preparation of Estimate purpose for the development of Central Park near 108 feet Statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda near Kempegowda International Airport" Indent No. : KPWD/KIAL_QUOTATIONS/02/2022-23"** noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with **Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement** rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents One Cover System from the contractors registered in **K.P.W.D.** as per e-procurement procedure. for the below works **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal.**

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated : 20-12-2022 onwards. (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on **Dated : 27-12-2022 before 16.00 hours. (3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on **Dated : 28-12-2022 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.

Condition : 1) The quoted rates to be submitted through E-Proc only. **2)** Above mentioned specification should not be altered. **3)** Above quotation called for Estimate purpose only. **4)** Department shall not be responsible for any delay in receipt of the bid and reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. **5)** Further details of work can be obtained form the Office of the under signed on all working days upto 5.30 p.m.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/Urban/3647/Manipal/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt.Bhagya@Pavithra W/o H.T. Venkatesh on behalf of the Government of Bengaluru City District Bengaluru North Taluk, Dasanpur Hobli, Dasanpur Gram Panchayat, Shivanapura Village, Land Survey No. 07 and 08 out of which formed out of Site No.844 Site Right Deed: No. 07548 issued by the Executive Officers, Taluk Panchayat, Bangalore North Taluk dated: 15.07.2010. Thereafter the said site was allotted by the Government of Karnataka under the Urban Shelter Scheme vide Government Order No. HUD 535 KHB 91 Bangalore City District Bangalore North Taluk, Dasanpur Hobli, Dasanpura Grama Panchayat. Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o H.T. Venkatesh resident of Sivanapura Village, bearing: Title RD (93) NO-I- registered a mortgage deed dated: 19.08.2010 in the office of Sub Registrar, Dasanapura and possession of the house is also given through registered title deed.

The Government has given Rs.25000/- for the construction of shelter houses built by the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation to build a house in the said Site of two square, RCC Building. Then the said property was mortgaged by the Executive Officers of Bangalore North Taluk Panchayat, Dasanapura, Sub-Reg Office in 1st Book of Deed No. DSP-1-02271 2010-2011 recorded as CD No. DSPD No. 70. Further in Asharya Yojana Property Right Deed and Mortgage Deed to Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o H.T. Venkatesh registred on the Date: on 19.08.2010.

Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra died on date: 28.06.2020, but in the case of giving Right Deed wrongly entered as Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o Kantharaju instead of her correct name as Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o H.T. Venkatesh. Further the said Site was registred on 19.08.2010 with the correct name Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o H.T. Venkatesh has been corrected and registered in the Site Deed No. RD(93 NO-1).

Therefore, in the original copy of the title Right Deed, has been wrongly entered as Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o Kantharaju instead of Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra W/o H.T Venkatesh, by the concerned authorities, to be rectified and amended in the original documents of the concerned offices and the land that has become vacant due to the death of Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra Site No.: 844. Khata No.:844/844 directed by Mr. H.T. Venkatesh S/o Tammegowda to register E-swathu Khata in my name in the concerned office. Government Order No: DOH 20 HAH 2011, Bangalore Dated 20.06.2011 Ordered by the Government Project related to "Nanna Mane-Nanna Swathu" scheme. As per Government Circular (Order) and Corporation's Letter No: MD RGRHCL 01 SD 47 2011, Dated:28,05,2011 Re-payment of defaulted as per loan fixed/ Last date : 31.03.2013 Money to be paid in legal form in cash Loan re-payment amount Rs.25000.00/- paid to Panchayat Development Officers, Dasanapura Grama Panchayat, Bangalore North Taluk vide Receipt No:29942 in Receipt Book No:1 dated : 28.03.2013.

Since Smt. Bhagya @ Pavithra died on 28.06.2020 is the reason immediately the original beneficiary the right of ownership of the deed can be transferred to the co-heirs and direct heirs of the deceased beneficiary and if the family-tree is also owned by the deeded beneficiary, the farmer can get a pump in the name of the beneficiary's heirs from the direct heirs it is subject to change as per revenue department regulations and rules of the Revenue Department.

In the above case concerned Public are requested to raise objections if any and to be submitted to offices such as GP Dasanapura, T.P. Yalahanka Bangalore North Taluk, ZP Bangalore City District, District Collector, Bangalore City District and Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation, Bangalore, with relevant supporting documents within 21 days. Otherwise further proceedings will be taken for registration and transfer of enrollment.

SCHEDULE DETAILS

Karnataka Government's Ashraya Yojane of Government Order No : HUD 535 as per KHB 91 Bangalore Urban District Bangalore North Taluk, Dsanapura Hobli, Dsanapura GP, Shivanapura Village situated in Assessment No.07 and 08 Khata No. 844/844, Site No. 844 House is **bounded by:-** To East : Road, To West : Site No. 885, To North: Site No. 845, To South: Road. In this middle of the Site East to West : 30-0(9.144meters) Ft, and North to South : 20-0(6.096 meters) ft, and Total measuring 600 Sq. Ft (55.74 Sq Mtrs) in th Site and 2 Square R.C.C roofed House being Constructed in the above Site.

Sd/-, **N.M.Bhat Association,** Advocate
No.64, 1st Floor, 71st Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore-560010. Mob: 9986024260

Published Date: 22-12-2022

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, 06472429K NK Name: K Ananji s/o Late Kempe Gowda residing at Dasarakoppalu, Haralahalli Post, Hassan Talluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State, India. I had served in the Regiment ASC (AT) from 14–03–1983 to 01–04–2000. I am in receipt of service pension with original PPO no S/049429/1999 (ARMY). That I wish to change the Name and Date of Birth of my Wife and Daughter as mentioned below and the same has been entered in their Aadhaar card & PAN card documents and the same are to be changed in my service records Wife Name from R Radha to Radhamma, wife D.O.B from 18–12–1969 to 25–07–1966, and Daughter Name from Uma Devi to Uma K A, Daughter D.O.B from 21–07–1996 to 21–02–1996. Vide affidavit Dated 01–12–2022 sworn before notary D.S Jagadamba at Hassan.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASEEMA Bano, R/o No.27/5 C-2 2nd Flr 27 Millers Road 1st Cross, Canara Bank, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Aseema Arshad vide affidavit dt: 21.12.2022 sworn before Notary T.C.Thimmaraja, B'lore.

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the 1st Addl. Motor Accident Claims Tribunal :: Nellore, A.P State
M.V.O.P. No.667/2021
Devarapalli Ravi Chandra ...Claimant
Vs
1.Narra Premsagar and 2 Others ...Respondents

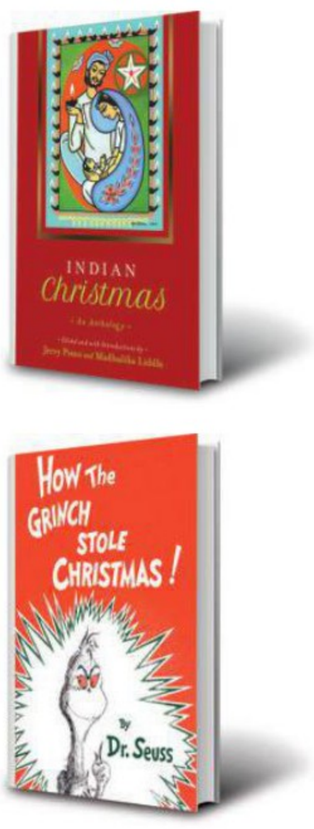
Notice to 2nd Respondent

Nanje Gowda N, Owner of Car bearing No. KA-02-MB-9233, Matha Sharada Ashrama Back Side, CLG RD MVLYT, Hoskote, Bangalore.

Please take notice that the above claimant filed M.V.O.P. Case against you and your Insurance Company for compensation. The Case is posted to 11.01.2023 for your appearance. your are required to appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 11.01.2023 at 10.30 A.M. either in person or an Advocate, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

D.Ramesh, B.A., B.L.,
Advocate for the Claimant, Nellore

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Good news for all: A Kashmiri artisan paints a Christmas bauble made of paper mache at a workshop ahead of Christmas in Srinagar on December 21. AP

Tis' the season to be jolly: books which bring tidings of comfort and joy

As Christmas is celebrated with its own regional flair across the country, there are numerous novels, stories and murder mysteries to dip into; the pages are bound to bring you plenty of holiday cheer, festival warmth and some thrills

Joan Sony Cherian

The season of red and green tinsels, plum cakes and snowmen (in our case figures made out of cotton balls and ample amount of glitter) is here. Christmas, while being primarily a religious festival, is celebrated culturally by people from all walks of life across the world. The happiness of the 'good news' announced to the shepherds and the Magi from the East all those years ago has transmuted now to sentiments of forgiveness and good-cheer, an aura we associate particularly with Christmas.

Cakes, carols and Christmas movies are some of the trademark ways through which Christmas is celebrated. A humble category we often fail to include are Christmas stories and novels. From classics to mystery to tear-jerkers, books are also a way through which one can get right into the Christmas spirit.

A trip down memory lane

"Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone. Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!". No list of Christmas books is complete or even begins without mentioning *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The novella was first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843, with illustrations by John Leech. The story revolves around Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly old man who is visited by three ghosts, the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. The ghosts take old Scrooge through his life, trying to make him understand what Christmas is about and how it will all be too late if he doesn't open his hand and more importantly his heart. Tiny Tim, a crippled toddler, the son of Scrooge's clerk, is an especially moving figure in the novel. It is his resilience and optimism in the face of his disability and poverty which breaks Scrooge. The story emphasises how Christmas is much beyond a decorated tree, roast-chicken and wine; it is a time of family, friendship and renewal.

"Why, for fifty-three years I've put up with it now, I MUST stop Christmas from coming... But HOW?", the Grinch wonders in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel written in rhymed verse with illustrations. Set in the town of Who-ville, the Grinch hates Christmas. As he makes plans to sabotage the festival, he realises that whatever he may say or do won't stop Christmas from coming. This small story is yet another classic which makes us look beyond the increasing commercialisation of Christmas to what its true spirit entails.

A dose of mystery and sentiment

Peace and goodwill with a whole lot of blood. These seemed to be the overarching themes in mind when Agatha Christie wrote *Hercule Poirot's Christmas* in 1938. If stories of Christmas cheer and joy turn too saccharine, a gory Christmas murder would be the right avenue to turn to. In the novel, we are introduced to Simeon Lee, an invalid old man who invites his entire family to spend Christmas together, under one roof. The drama is centred around him and his sons – Alfred Lee, the ever-devoted son. and his wife Lydia, George Lee, the miserly parliamentarian, and his young wife, mama's boy David Lee, and his sensible wife Hilda and the black sheep cum prodigal son Harry Lee. Simeon Lee wishes to mend bridges and let bygones be bygones in the spirit of 'peace and goodwill'. Or so he says. But all is not what it seems when the patriarch is found brutally murdered leaving everyone in shock. Everyone but of course, the bearer of grand moustaches, Hercule Poirot.

If a murder mystery seems rather unconventional, a heart-wrenching tale of a father who does not have much time to live, looking back at his life might seal the deal. In *The Deal of a Lifetime*, Fredrik Backman tells the story of a father and his son and the 'women in the grey sweater and folder' who comes every other night to the cancer ward. The father ponders about his relationship with his son one lonely Christmas. He also looks upon his legacy, having achieved the lengths and depths which one could only dream of, especially when one is from an obscure small town like Helsingborg situated in the southernmost part of Sweden. All this until he is offered the deal of a lifetime. 'A life for a life'.

The Indian connect

"O the white dust on the highway! O the stenches in the byway!

O the clammy fog that hovers over earth!

And at Home they're making merry 'neath the white and scarlet berry

What part have India's exiles in their mirth?"

– writes Rudyard Kipling in his poem *Christmas in India*. Kipling laments about celebrating Christmas in an unfamiliar landscape among strangers. One wonders what Mr. Kipling would say if he saw Christmas in India now. But which Christmas shall we show him? In a nation as diverse as India, is there ever just one Christmas?

In *Indian Christmas*, an anthology of essays, hymns and memories edited and contributed to by Jerry Pinto and Madhulika Liddle, this very question is addressed in detail through authors who remember their own Christmases and how the region they occupied informed their celebrations, right from the ingredients used in the cake to the church they attended. Pinto and Liddle start off the collection by fondly talking about their childhood memories of Christmas in Bombay and Uttar Pradesh respectively. Pinto recollects the rather emaciated Santa Claus and Jim Reeves records and ponders on the birth of the baby, the reason for the season, a refugee in a foreign land who was turned away from everywhere, while Liddle elaborates on Christmas at her ancestral home (*dua ka ghar*, the house of prayer).

In the subsequent plethora of essays, different authors describe their experience of the festivities in their respective hometowns – Kerala, Goa, Calcutta, Chennai, Shillong, Chandigarh and so on. The geographical location and social context added its own flair to the Christmases celebrated across India.

India's pluralist history has a direct bearing on these multi-cultural experiences within Christmas. Manimugdha. S. Sharma in his essay titled 'How India's Pluralistic Past Shows the Way Forward' explains how India has always embraced different cultures and ways of life. While in 1581, Jesuit priests were being hanged by Queen Elizabeth Tudor in her mission to get rid of the Catholics, in the court of Mughal emperor Akbar, Jesuit priests were welcomed and their faith celebrated. Over the years Christianity has flourished alongside Islam and Hinduism and other religions, borrowing and giving from one and another, building up for itself a syncretic character. He ends the essay on a word of caution wherein he refers to the attack on Christmas by vigilante forces and hate groups who denounce the 'foreign festival' in the name of God and country. But as Liddle writes, "Indians adopted Christianity, but made it their own".

Similarly, Christmas, often celebrated on a warm summer morning in the south or in sweater weather up-north (dreams of a White Christmas unfortunately often stay as dreams), is 'Indian' precisely because of its cultural variations and will hopefully remain so for years to come.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. T. S. Vasantha Kumar of Bangalore wants to know which of the following is correct (a) We look forward to receive your letter (b) We look forward to receiving your letter."

" 'We look forward to receiving your letter' is correct.

We look forward to seeing you next week.

We don't look forward to the Minister's visit to this place.

We look forward to your participation in the function.

'Look forward to' is followed by a noun or a gerund. It is not followed by a verb."

"Mr. Sanjeeva Reddy of Chamapet wants to know which of the two is correct: (a) fill up the blanks (b) fill in the blanks. Both are correct. You can choose what you like."

"Mr. N. Vaidyanathan of Palani wants to know the difference between 'inflict' and afflict'."

" 'Afflict' is from Latin *ad*, to plus *Higere*, 'to strike to the ground'. You are generally afflicted with or by something.

He is afflicted with heart disease.

He is afflicted with blindness.

He is afflicted with incurable cancer.

He was afflicted by the news of his friend's death.

'Afflict' means 'to distress so severely as to cause persistent suffering'. 'Inflict' means 'to force or impose' something painful or damaging'. You inflict an injury on someone.

He inflicted a heavy blow on the thief.

You inflict something on another but you are afflicted with or by something."

"Mr. D. Thirupalaiah of Cuddappah wants to know the pronunciation of 'debut'.

" 'De' is pronounced like 'day', 'but' rhymes with 'two' and 'who'. The final 't' is silent. The stress is on the first syllable 'de'. 'Debut' means 'a first appearance in society, or on stage, in sport, etc. as a performer'.

She made her debut as a dancer yesterday.

He made his debut as a magician last week.

His debut in the Lok Sabha was a failure."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22 every year in honour of the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. Here's a quiz on all things numbers

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1

What award is given every four years to one or more mathematicians under the age of 40 in recognition of "outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement"?

QUESTION 2

Considered as the first pure mathematician, this Greek taught us that the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of two of its other sides.

QUESTION 3

Any one who solves any of the following six problems in mathematics — the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture, the Hodge conjecture, the Navier–Stokes existence and smoothness, the P versus NP problem, the Riemann hypothesis, and the Yang–Mills existence and mass gap — will be awarded a prize of $1 million by the Clay Institute. By what name are these problems, along with the already-solved Poincare Conjecture problem, known as?

QUESTION 4

Srinivasa Ramanujan at a very early age of 15 had his interest in mathematics unlocked by the book *A Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics.* Who was the author of this book?

QUESTION 5

Which is the only number that cannot be represented in roman numerals?

For all integers n >2, the equation

$$a^n + b^n = c^n$$

cannot be solved with positive integers a, b, and c.

Visual question:

Identify this famous theorem in mathematics.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the teenager who became the youngest to score at the World Cup since Pelé. **Ans: Gavi**

2. The prize money Argentina received. **Ans: $42 million**

3. The first player to score in five different editions of the World Cup. **Ans: Cristiano Ronaldo**

4. This team has been eliminated from the quarter-final stages of the World Cup for the most number of times. **Ans: England**

5. This team finished third in 1978. **Ans: Brazil**

6. Kylian Mbappe emulated this person in the summit clash. **Ans: Geoff Hurst**

7. Messi has become the record holder for most games played at the World Cup overtaking this player. **Ans: Germany's Lothar Matthaus**

8. The longest game in World Cup history. **Ans: IR Iran versus England.**

9. Vittorio Pozzo (1934, 1938), Carlos Bilardo (1986, 1990), Franz Beckenbauer (1986, 1990) and this person completes this series. **Ans: France Didier Deschamps**

10. Every World Cup final since 1982 has featured at least one player from these two European clubs. **Ans: Bayern Munich and Inter Milan**

Visual: Identify this official. **Ans: Stephanie Frappart**

Early Birds: Sayanti Sarkar| Devjeet Laishram| Abhigya Singh| Pranav Pranjal

Word of the day

Bombinate: make a buzzing sound

Synonyms: buzz, bombilate

Usage: *The office will be bombinating after the coffee-break.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/bombinatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈbɒmbɪneɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

State govt. mulls over bringing back masks, and screening at airport

Specific measures, however, are subject to the recommendations that emerged from the Technical Advisory Committee meeting held in Bengaluru

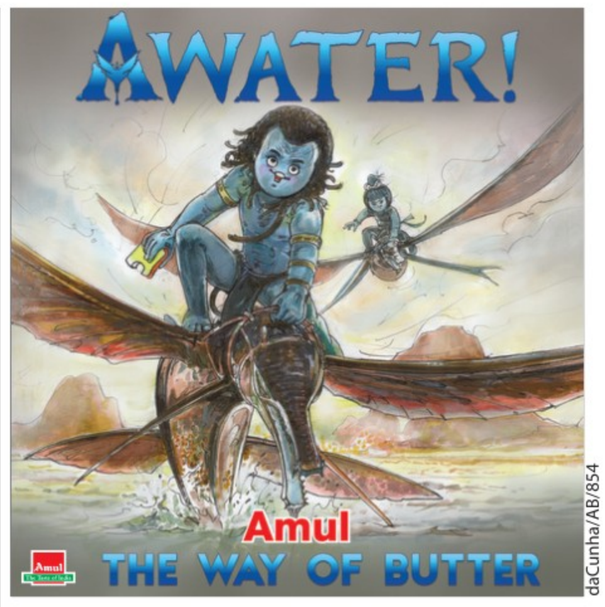
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of a spike in COVID-19 cases in China, South Korea, Japan, Brazil, and the United States, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is thinking of making COVID-appropriate behaviour, including face masks, compulsory again in the city. Restarting screening of international passengers arriving in Bengaluru is also being mulled over. Specific measures, however, are subject to the recommendations that emerged from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting that was held in Bengaluru late on Wednesday evening. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is also expected to hold a high-level meeting on the issue, based on TAC recommendations. Special Commissioner (Health) K.V. Trilok Chandra said, "COVID-19 cases are increasing in various parts of the world. Hence, as a precaution, BBMP is planning to implement compulsory COVID-appropriate behaviour after taking suggestions from the TAC."

A file photo of incoming passengers being screened for COVID-19 at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.

The Union Health Ministry has directed States to send samples of all new COVID-19 cases for genomic sequencing. Mr. Trilok Chandra said, "The BBMP will send samples from Bengaluru as per directions." Meanwhile, Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar said, "We will have to take certain precautionary measures in the wake of the global situation. The Kempegowda International Airport has a high inflow of international passengers. We will start screening passengers there. While we have achieved 100% coverage in two doses, precaution dose is yet to to be taken by a lot of people. All those who are yet to get their booster shots should voluntarily come forward and take it," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Stating that the Centre is constantly monitoring the global situation, he said, "We will take all necessary precautions, and new guidelines will be released in this regard soon."



CAT 2022 results out, 11 candidates score 100 percentile

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 11 candidates secured a perfect score of 100 percentile as the results of the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2022, the all-India entrance exam for admission into IIMs and other top B-schools in the country, were declared on Wednesday. All of them were male candidates.

Among those who scored perfect scores, 10 are from the Engineering discipline. A release stated that 22 candidates (21 males and 1 female) have managed to secure a score of 99.99 percentile. A total of 22 candidates (19 males and 3 females) managed to score 99.98 percentile.

The CAT exams were conducted at 293 test centres in 154 cities on November 27 in three shifts. Around 2.22 lakh candidates had appeared for the exams out of 2.55 lakh registered eligible candidates. The overall attendance was around 87%. Among those who appeared for the exams, 35% were females, 65% males, and 4 candidates represented the transgender community. The release states that the CAT centre received around 113 objections across three sections and three shifts. Two objections related to data interpretation and logical reasoning were accepted.

"The DILR working group has decided not to consider these two questions for evaluation as these questions were found to be ambiguous. Scores of candidates for the DILR section in these shifts are adjusted on a prorated basis based on their responses on the balance questions in DILR section," stated the release.

The release further stated that "IIM will now release their shortlists for subsequent admission processes based on, among other things, the CAT 2022 scores. 90 non-IIM institutions will also use the CAT 2022 score this year for admission into their management programmes. The details of the non-IIM institutions that are registered with CAT 2022 can be found at the CAT 2022 website."

Ministry requested to review train schedules

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has formally requested the Railway Ministry to review schedules of the Vande Bharat and the Shatabdi trains operated between Mysuru to Chennai via Bengaluru.

However, the Railway officials have maintained that it is difficult to change the timings. As per information by SWR, both the services are running with good occupancy, said Housing Minister V. Somanna, while replying to questions by member of Legislative Council.

Electricity bill payment scammers strike again, snaring two more persons in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a brief lull, the electricity bill payment scam has returned, despite repeated awareness campaigns by the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and the police.

Aravind Kumar, a 56-year-old businessman from Chamarajapet, filed a complaint with the West Division cybercrime police on Saturday, stating that he had been cheated of ₹4.9 lakh on the pretext of online electricity bill payment.

Mr. Kumar said that the accused, posing as a Bescom official, called him to inform that if he did not pay the electricity bill immediately, the power connection will be disconnected. Mr. Kumar asked him for an option, for which the accused sent him a link to download Teamviewer and Quicksupport mobile apps.

The cybercrime police and Bescom officials in August this year urged its consumers to ignore any text regarding discontinuation of electricity supply owing to non-payment of bills.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

As soon as the apps were downloaded on Mr. Kumar's phone, the accused accessed his bank account details and transferred the money to his account online.

Mr. Kumar had provided the details of the bank transactions, based on which the police are trying to track down the accused.

In a similar case, M. Bangaraswamy, advisor to the Water Resources Department, lost ₹99,500 to a conman on Monday. The accused called Mr. Bangaraswamy to inform him that his power connection would be disconnected if he did not pay the bill immediately.

The accused, during the conversation, accessed the bank account details and withdrew the money.

The cybercrime police and Bescom officials this August urged its consumers to ignore any text regarding discontinuation of electricity supply owing to non-payment of bills.

They had clarified that such text messages are fake and Bescom does not send text messages to insist on payment of bills.

Software engineer found dead in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dejected over prolonged illness, a 51-year-old software engineer was found dead in the backseat of his car at Mahalakshmi Layout on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Vijay Kumar. The incident occurred at Kurubarahalli junction in the morning.

According to the police, Vijay Kumar sought the help of passers-by to put the car cover while he was sitting inside.

Later, a few passers-by noticed the car parked haphazardly with the cover and informed the police. The police removed the cover to find Vijay Kumar in an unconscious state.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Inquiries revealed that Vijay Kumar was suffering from cardiac-related ailments and was under depression. The police have registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating further.

Vijay Kumar was married and had two children.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya sahaya vani ph. 104 for help)

Indo-Dutch 'WAH! Accelerator' to address anti-microbial resistance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) and the Netherlands embassy have come together to address the challenge posed by anti-microbial resistance.

Co-creation

The Indo-Dutch collaboration called "WAH! Accelerator" will emphasise co-creation and co-development of new technologies in water, agriculture, animal, and human health towards fulfilling the one-health approach to address anti-microbial resistance.

The Netherlands Ambassador to India, Marten van den Berg, said: "The joint WAH! Accelerator is a unique partnership between India and the Netherlands that aims to combat challenges related to one health and anti-microbial resistance across the value chain. The partnership was ideated during the state visit in 2019, and has today taken shape in the form of WAH! Accelerator. It has full support of the Netherlands Economic Network in India as well as the government of the Netherlands".

The 'WAH! Accelerator' is a C-CAMP partnership with the Netherlands Antibiotic Development Platform and the AMR Global, both Netherlands-based organisations.

Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO-Director of C-CAMP, said that this effort, from different countries coming together and working towards finding solutions to a common problem, demonstrates India's and the Netherlands' commitment to the one health approach.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 22	
RISE 06:37	SET 17:59
RISE 05:14	SET 16:53
FRIDAY, DEC. 23	
RISE 06:37	SET 18:00
RISE 06:21	SET 17:57
SATURDAY, DEC. 24	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:00
RISE 07:29	SET 19:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	21
Mysuru	30	17
Bengaluru	28	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfotable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

CCB busts betting racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials on Wednesday busted an online cricket betting racket and arrested a bookie running the online betting for the ongoing India and Bangladesh test series.

Based on a tip-off, the police caught the bookie near Jamia Mosque road in Halasuru Gate and seized ₹2 lakh in cash and a mobile phone.

Canadian International School student raises funds for govt. students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Class X student of Canadian International School (CIS), Hemal, and his friends raised over ₹11,000 for the Government Lower Primary School, Gantiganahalli, Yelahanka, recently. Moved by the plight of the children, Mr. Hemal decided that the students had to be provided with some essential tools of education.

According to a release from CIS, its students organised a friendly basketball match and a bake sale to raise funds for stationery items for 30 students of the school. They donated 150 notebooks, 30 geometry boxes, and 30 crayon boxes to the children.

International conference at RIT today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ramaiah Institute of Technology, will organise the 4th International Conference on Circuits, Control, Communication and Computing 14C-2022 on December 22.

Prof. Navakanta Bhat, Dean, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc., will the chief guest.

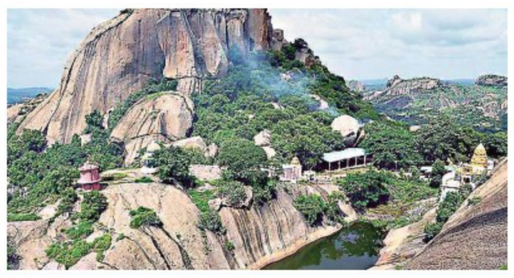
Loyola Technology Centre inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Loyola Technology Centre was inaugurated recently by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot recently at St. Joseph's Boys High School premises in the city. The LTC programmes include STEM in-school programmes, exploratory projects, and "hands-on" workshops with industry experts during school club hours, after school hours and on weekends. It will also organise industry visits to local organisations, and facilitate higher grade student internships and corporate shadowing opportunities for students, a release stated.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF



'Develop Ramadevarabetta as Ayodhya of the South'

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also in charge of Ramanagaram district, has urged Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to constitute a committee to build a temple at Ramadevarabetta in Ramanagaram on the lines of the Ram temple at Ayodhya in U.P. In a letter to the CM and Muzrai Minister Shashikala Jolle, he requested that Ramadevarabetta be developed as 'Ayodhya of South India'.

9,857 deaths in 36,100 road accidents in State this year

Minister for Public Works C.C. Patil said a total of 9,857 persons had died in 36,100 road accidents in the State during in 2022 (upto November). Giving details in the Legislative Council, Mr. Patil said the number of persons who died in 34,647 road accidents during 2021 was 10,038. In 2020, a total of 34,178 road accidents had claimed 9,760 lives while the 40,658 road accidents during 2019 had claimed 10,958 lives. A total of 942 black spots had been identified across the State.

Panchamasali quota: Ready for felicitation or agitation today, say protesters

Massive rally planned by the community in Belagavi; Cabinet expected to discuss the issue today

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Stepping up pressure on the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government in the midst of the ongoing winter session in Belagavi, the Panchamasali reservation agitation committee has set a deadline of 11 a.m. on Thursday to announce their inclusion in Category 2A of the State OBC list.

A show of strength – the Virat Pancha Shakti rally – has been planned in front of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Thursday. Local leaders claim that anywhere between 2 to 4 lakh people are expected to attend the rally.

With the Cabinet meeting scheduled on Thursday, there is speculation on how the government will tackle

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami

the demand by the Lingayat subsect, which is seeking reclassification from 3B to 2A category in the OBC list for a bigger share in reservation.

'Signals' from govt.

"If Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announces the inclusion, we will felicitate him. If not, we will lay seige to the Suvarna Soudha. We are open minded out the issue. We are ready for both," said Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, who is heading the agitation, in Belagavi on Wednesday.

He also indicated that he had got 'signals' from inside the government that the CM had taken decision to include the community in 2A category. "I am confident that the Chief Minister will make the announcement," he said. He was flanked by BJP leaders MLA Mahantesh Dodagoudar, Vishwanath Patil, and Congress leaders Vijayanand Kashappanavar and A.B. Patil.

Ahead of polls

A Lingayat leader who belongs to Veerashaiva Mahasabha claimed that stepping up the agitation just ahead of polls was significant. "The Panchamasali leadership is trying to convince the BJP that it is the largest sub group among Lingayats and that it should get a lion's share of tickets among Lingayats. All these decades, leaders of Banajiga community, which is a minority group among Lingayats, have enjoyed a higher proportion of political representation, compared to Panchamasalis. Hence the need for organising the community and staking their claim," he said.

Report from panel

Meanwhile, speaking in the Assembly, Mr. Bommai said the State government will soon get an interim report from the Permanent Backward Classes Commission in the wake of demand by various communities including the Marathas for increasing reservation quota allocated for their communities.

Ruckus in Assembly over irregular bus service, Minister's remarks

Opposition members staging a protest in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State Legislative Assembly witnessed a ruckus as members of the Opposition Congress staged protests on Wednesday over irregular bus services to rural areas by Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) and Water Resources Minister Govind M. Karjol's 'disrespectful' remark towards Ranganath H.D. of the Congress during the protest in the well of the House on the issue.

In reply to Siddu Savadi of the BJP during the question hour, Transport Minister B. Sriramulu said RTCs have not been operating buses owing to bad roads and many operations have not been resumed post-COVID-19.

Irked by his reply, members of the Congress and JD (S) stood and said irregular bus service was a State-wide problem and was causing inconvenience to students of schools and colleges in rural areas. The Opposition demanded a half-an-hour discussion on the subject.

Members trooped into the well of the House seeking a lengthy debate on the matter. Following the government's assurances of a debate, all Opposition members withdrew their protest except Mr. Ranganath, representing Kunigal.

At this point, Mr. Karjol 'brusquely' told Mr. Ranganth to go back. Law and Parliamentary Minister J.C. Madhuswamy too asked the Congress member to withdraw his protest.

Enraged, Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah asked members to continue their protest and said the protest would not be withdrawn till Mr. Karjol expressed regret over his 'bad conduct'. Mr Siddaramaiah said all members have equal rights in the House, the Minister's bad behaviour towards a member would not be tolerated.

As the members continued to protest, Kumar Bangarappa, who was in the Speaker's chair, adjourned the House for a truce. Congress members continued the protest when the members reassembled. Heated arguments took place between Mr. Madhuswamy and the Opposition members.

Threat of suspension

As Anjali Nimbalkar of Congress continued to raise slogans, Mr. Madhuswamy warned that the House would pass a resolution suspending her. As Congress members condemned Mr. Madhuswamy's remark, Mr. Bangarappa adjourned the House again to hold a meeting with floor leaders of the House.

When the House met again after the lunch break, Mr. Bommai and Mr. Siddaramaiah said that such developments should not get repeated and members should extend mutual respect to each other. They also called for expungement of remarks used by members of either side.

Earlier, Mr. Sriramulu said he would convene a meeting of legislators division-wise to address problems related to bus services.

Horatti unanimous choice as Council Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Basavaraj Horatti, an eight-time MLC, was on Wednesday unanimously chosen Chairman of the Legislative Council of Karnataka.

The choice of Mr. Horatti, who joined the BJP recently, as the Chairman became unanimous after the Opposition Congress and JD(S) did not field any candidate for the post.

Mr. Horatti was declared elected by pro tem Chairman Raghunath Rao Malkhapure after a voice vote in the House where the BJP commands a majority.

The BJP has 39 members in the 75-member Legislative Council, apart from Mr. Malkhapure,

Pro tem Chairman Raghunath Rao Malkapure greeting Basavaraj Horatti in the Legislative Council. P.K. BADIGER

while the Congress has 26 and JDS has 8 members. One seat is vacant and another is occupied by an independent.

Mr. Horatti, who was born in 1946, was not only elected to the Legislative Council a record eight times, but is also taking charge as Chairman for the third time.

"The unanimous choice of a veteran politician with decades of experience in public life has only added to the prestige of the House," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said. Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council B.K. Hariprasad said one of the reasons for the Congress party not fielding a candidate was in recognition of his adherence to value-based politics. He urged Mr. Horatti to allot enough time to opposition members to raise various issues.

Mr. Horatti, while thanking all parties for unanimous election, informed that he had resigned from the primary membership of the BJP to uphold the neutrality of the post.

Council to elect Deputy Chairman tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The election to the post of Deputy Chairman of Legislative Council will be held at Suvarna Soudha on Friday. While BJP is expected to field M.K. Pranesh, Congress will field Aravind Arali.

Congress Chief Whip in the Legislative Council Prakash Rathod said it did not field a candidate for Chairman of Legislative Council, facilitating the unanimous election of BJP's Basavaraj Horatti. "The BJP should be magnanimous and return the courtesy," he remarked.

Bribery charge issue raised

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Opposition sought a discussion in the Legislative Council on the allegation by a BJP MP that the Vice-Chancellor post can be 'purchased'.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council B.K. Hariprasad said the matter was serious as a ruling party MP had levelled a serious allegation that concerned the state of higher education. The JD(S) too supported the demand for a discussion.

When Chairman Basavaraj Horatti refused to allow a discussion, the Opposition members trooped into the well of the House. However, they relented and returned to their seats after the Chairman said he will consider giving them an opportunity to raise the issue if they give a notice in advance.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

R.GNANAVEL (68), Retired Senior Engineer - Printing, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 21-12-2022. Address: Malles Akansha, Villa No:60, Nookampalayam Main Road, Perumbakkam, Ch-100. Ct: 9841567622

OBITUARY

T.K. THANICKACHALAM
(B) 27.06.1928 (D) 21.12. 2022
(S/o Rao Sahib T.R. Kothandarama Mudaliar)
Addl. Director of Agriculture (Rtd.), TN
Ex. Chairman, IIPA, TN; EC Member, IIPA, Delhi
President, CARD; Fellow, IASR, Chennai-600 102
"KATHA CREST" No:2, 7th Cross St, West Shenoy Nagar, Chennai 600 030.
Funeral on 22 Dec 2022, 3pm,
Cremation on 4 pm
New Avadi Rd, Chennai 600 040.

DEATH

Shri. S. Sarveswara Rau
(01-04-1936 - 18-12-2022)
Retd. Regional Field Mgr. ROCHE, Hyd. & Former In-Charge for Bharatiya Yog Sansthan (BYS) Chennai Chapter.
With Profound Sorrow we inform the demise of our beloved father
With Reverence:
Son: Venkat - 98405 94564
Daughters: Sujatha - 97909 08109
Hema - 98407 44490

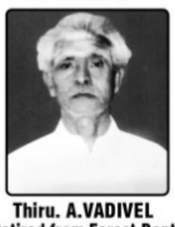
REMEMBRANCE

SECOND ANNIVERSARY
22.12.2022

Dr.GeethaBaskar
2 years passed
Memories Remain Eternal
Fondly remembered by Family and Friends

REMEMBRANCE

5th Anniversary
03-11-2022



Thiru. A.VADIVEL
(Retired from Forest Dept)
15-09-1912 - 03-11-2017

24th Anniversary
22-12-2022

Tmt. S. THANGAMMAL
(Retired Teacher)
01-07-1914 - 22-12-1998

Beloved Father and Mother
"You are ever in our mind, Thoughts and Living in Our Heart"
Sons:- V.RAJAMANOHARAN & Brothers
Daughters-in-law, Grand Sons & Grand Daughters
Mobile: 94449 51564

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: KPTCL/HRDC/CIVIL/B-78/35758/2022-23/1794 Dt: 20.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids in GoK e-Procurement portal for the following services.
Name of the work: (1) Tender for Day to Day Operation & Maintenance of Hostel and other accommodation Rooms including laundry services at Human Resource Development Centre, KPTCL, Hoody, Bengaluru. **Estimated Cost: Rs. 53,18,000/-.**
(2) Providing Catering Services at Human Resource Development Centre, KPTCL, Hoody, Bengaluru. **Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,56,10,000/-.**
The Bids will be received through GoK e-procurement portal only. The other details regarding qualifying requirements, period of completion, EMD and details regarding participating in e-procurement process etc., can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 4.00 PM on 23.12.2022.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Administrator, KPTCL, HRD Centre, White Field Road, Hoody, Bengaluru-560048.

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development and Port and Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PORT DIVISION,
BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302
Phone/Fax: 08382-229672 Email: eepdk@rediffmail.com/ eepdkwr4@gmail.com
NO.EE/PDK/TND/2022-23/966 Date: 17-12-2022

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rdCALL) (Only in e-procurement)
Invitation for tenders (IFT) Two cover system

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in e-Procurement to execute below mentioned work. To participate in e-Procurement, and for more information may be obtained in **www.eproc.karnatakagov.in** website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.
"GST shall be paid to the Tendered Amount separately"
Name of work and Indent Number: (1) Maintenance Dredging At The Basin & Entrance Channel For The Development Of Baithkhol Fishing Harbour In Karwar Taluka Of Uttara Kannada District (Indent No. IDD/2022-23/OW/WORK_**INDENT90/CALL-3**), Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 25251864.55,** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD Amount): **Rs. 3.79 Lakhs** (Rs1.00 lakhs e-payment – Rs.2.79 Lakhs as mentioned in bid document), Last date and Time for: Queries: **23-12-2022 at 16.00hours,** Last date and Time for receipt of Tender: **26-12-2022 at 16.00 hours.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Port Division, Karwar
DIPR/ADK/MCA/747/22-23 Dt. 21.12.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Schedule **Site Property Bearing No.621, having BDA Khata No.BDA /RO(S)/BSKVI/8/621/2002-03,** situated at **Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore** morefully described in the schedule hereunder from its **Owner Smt ANUPA P CHARANTIMATH D/o SRI. PANCHAKSHARI REVAYYA CHARANTIMATH** residing at No.305 Barclay Drive Waxhaw, NC - 28173 USA.
Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions, entity(corporate or other wise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to, the Schedule Property and/or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, gift, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order / decree judgment of any Court, agreement, understanding or otherwise howso ever, to the Schedule Property, is required to intimate the same, in writing together with true copies of all documentary evidence/ proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, within **10 (TEN) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property with out any reference to any such claim & the same, if any, shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned.
SCHEDULE
All that piece & parcel of the **Vacant Site Property Bearing No.621, having BDA Khata No. BDA/RO(S)/BSKVI/8/621/2002-03, measuring East to West 22.80 Metres & North to South 15.00 Metres ad-measuring 342.00 Square Metres (3681.26 Sq Ft approximately), situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore** & bounded on:
East By: Site bearing No. 600
West By: Road
North By: Site bearing No. 622
South By: Site bearing No. 620
B.C. Keerthi Kishore, Advocate
No. 13, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Jayanagar 1st Block East, Bangalore-560 011
Ph: 09986466139

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Schedule **Site Property Bearing No.621, having BDA Khata No.BDA /RO(S)/BSKVI/8/621/2002-03,** situated at **Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore** morefully described in the schedule hereunder from its **Owner Smt ANUPA P CHARANTIMATH D/o SRI. PANCHAKSHARI REVAYYA CHARANTIMATH** residing at No.305 Barclay Drive Waxhaw, NC - 28173 USA.
Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions, entity(corporate or other wise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to, the Schedule Property and/or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, gift, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order / decree judgment of any Court, agreement, understanding or otherwise howso ever, to the Schedule Property, is required to intimate the same, in writing together with true copies of all documentary evidence/ proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, within **10 (TEN) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property with out any reference to any such claim & the same, if any, shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned.
SCHEDULE
All that piece & parcel of the **Vacant Site Property Bearing No.621, having BDA Khata No. BDA/RO(S)/BSKVI/8/621/2002-03, measuring East to West 22.80 Metres & North to South 15.00 Metres ad-measuring 342.00 Square Metres (3681.26 Sq Ft approximately), situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore** & bounded on:
East By: Site bearing No. 600
West By: Road
North By: Site bearing No. 622
South By: Site bearing No. 620
B.C. Keerthi Kishore, Advocate
No. 13, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Jayanagar 1st Block East, Bangalore-560 011
Ph: 09986466139

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-561203. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-29562046
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/33/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20.12.2022

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ)ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ ವಲಯ'ದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ ವಲಯ'ಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ. ನಂ.	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ-ಗು)	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಬಿನ್ ಗಿರಿಯಪ್ಪ	ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ಕಸಬಾ	ಎಳ್ಳುಪುರ	51/3	0-12	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
2	ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಬಿನ್ ಗಿರಿಯಪ್ಪ	ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ಕಸಬಾ	ಎಳ್ಳುಪುರ	51/5	0-11½	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
3	ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಗಿರಿಯಪ್ಪ	ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ಕಸಬಾ	ಎಳ್ಳುಪುರ	51/6	0-11½	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಪರಾ:- ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜಿತ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ವಸತಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶ ಅಡಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ ವಲಯ'ದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ ವಲಯ'ಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that my clients **[1] Sri T.A. SENTHIL** and **[2] Smt. S. VIDYA** are negotiating to purchase all that wet land properties described in the schedule herein, from **[1] Sri G.K.APPAJI GOWDA, [2] Sri G.K.CHANDRASHEKARA** and **[3] Sri G.K.UMASHANKAR S/o late G.M.KADEGOWDA,** who claims to be owners of the schedule properties. Any person or persons having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule properties or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever against the schedule properties based on the documents pertaining to the said properties or objections for the proposed development, may lodge their OBJECTIONS and or CLAIMS with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **15 [fifteen)** days from the date of this publications. Any objections or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned properties on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule properties.
SHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the wet land properties situated at Hale Gabbadi village, Harohalli hobli, Kanakapura taluk, Ramanagara district bearing in Sy.No.154/1 measuring 1 Acre 32 Guntas, Sy.No.155/1 measuring 0 Acre 33 Guntas, Sy.No.156/1 measuring 0 Acres 12 Guntas in the name of Sri G.K.Appaji Gowda and Sy.No.156/3 measuring 1 Acre 0 Gunta in favour of Sri G.K.Chandrashekara and G.K.Umashankar, totally measuring 3 acres 37 guntas respectively and bounded on the: **East By** : Sy No.153 and BWSSB, **West by**: Sy.No.154/3, Government Nala & Sy. No.158, **North By**: Sy No.158, Sy.No.156/2 and Sy.No.155/1, **South By**: Sy.No.154/2 and Sy.No.154/3
Sd/- B.RAJE GOWDA, Advocate
No.13 & 14, Sampoorna Chambers,
3rd Floor, Vasavi Temple Road,
V.V.Puram, B'lr- 560004 Mob:9448606338

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners **(1) Mr. Sri Raghavan,** son of late K. Bhoovaraghavan and **(2) Mrs. Arati Khanna,** wife of Sri Raghavan, both residing at 2800 Fenwick Lane, Plano TX 75093 USA, they having acquired title to the same under a Sale Deed dated 21.04.2012 which was registered as Document No. BNG(U)-VRT/283/2012-13 stored in CD No. VRTD 151 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Varthur, Bangalore.
All persons, banks, financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being **Residential Villa No. 16** (BBMP Khatha No. 493, Thubarahalli Division, Old No. 498/357/28/2/16) bearing Old Khatha No. 28/2, House List No. 16 in Thubarahalli Village, earlier in Ramagondanahalli Village Panchayat, in the project known as **"REGENT PLACE",** measuring 3200+243+500 sq.ft. of super built up area with garage and garden in front and behind the villa respectively, together with **5162 sq ft** of undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in **Sy No. 28/2** of **Thubarahalli Village,** Varthur Hobli presently in Bangalore East Taluk and bounded as follows:
East by : Private Property,
West by : Common road leading to 'Regent Place Gold',
North by : House Property bearing No. 15 ,
South by : House Property bearing No. 17.
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 22.12.2022

INBRIEF

Jagan begins distribution of tabs to Class 8 students

On his 50th birthday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan launched distribution of Byjus's e-content Tabs to 8th standard students and faculty at a public meeting here, in Bapatla district, on Wednesday. The distribution of 5,18,740 tabs in all the government and aided schools would be completed within a week, he announced.

He said the tabs were pre-loaded with the class subjects and solved questions, which would add value to the students in addition to their classroom knowledge. "The technology enabled learning tabs have Secured Mobile Management Device, which would alert the parents, class teacher and Headmaster of the school on how the students are using them. Further, the devices will not allow the students to use them for any purpose other than academic reasons.

Dargah to be relocated to clear obstructions for BRTS

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday told the Legislative Assembly that the Hazarat Syed Khadri Mohammed Shah Dargah located between Hubballi and Dharwad will be relocated to ensure that the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) track was free of obstructions.

The CM said the government officials had already held meetings with the Dargah authorities on the shifting of the tomb. The Dargah authorities had agreed to relocate the structures safely, he pointed out.

Responding to the demand by the Opposition Congress members including Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah that the Dargah should be allowed to remain in its present location, the CM maintained that there was a need to shift it as it would reduce the width of the road. "We have already vacated 11 places of worship and in fact I myself have given the family property measuring 19 guntas for the road widening," said the CM.

We will enter Karnataka like China entered India: Raut

Shiv Sena leader censures Maharashtra CM for not taking action on border row

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

The Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary cauldron was kept boiling with Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday censuring Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's alleged "failure" to take any stance on Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's continuing 'verbal aggression'. He said the opposition could enter Karnataka in the manner in which China has entered Indian territory.

"The BJP-led Central government in Delhi keeps saying that it will not cede an inch of land to China. But China keeps entering Indian territory. Like China, even we will enter the [disputed] areas of Karnataka...we do not need anyone's permission. But this is a united country and

Sanjay Raut

we want to keep peace. Karnataka CM is deliberately stoking the fumes of this controversy because he is aware that Maharashtra has an extremely weak government," alleged Mr. Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP. His remarks came in the wake of the Bommai government's stance to pass a resolution in the Karnataka Legislature "that not even an inch of land" would be given to Maharashtra.

Mr. Raut questioned whether Delhi had silenced the lips of both CM Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, who had recently met with Home Minister Amit Shah after the latter sought to intervene in the ongoing dispute.

He said if the ruling dispensation refused to speak on the border issue, then there were enough and more leaders and people in Maharashtra who were more than willing to stage protest rallies in the border districts of Belagavi. Maharashtra Minister and Eknath Shinde faction leader Shambhuraj Desai warned that if Mr. Bommai did not refrain from making "irresponsible statements", then Maharashtra would have to rethink about supplying water from its dams to the neighbouring State.

"When the case is *sub judice*, a CM should not use threatening language," Mr. Desai said. He warned that Mr. Bommai ought to keep in mind that Karnataka is dependent on water supply from the Koyna and Krishna dams during dry season of March and April.

Will complain to Shah: Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Taking serious exception to Maharashtra Opposition leader Sanjay Raut stating that they would "attack" Karnataka "like China", Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said he would take up the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"It is a display of their immaturity to say they will attack us. I want to tell them that Kannadigas have the capacity like Indian soldiers to make them step back," he told reporters here. "The Union Home Minister has made it clear that this is not an issue that could be decided on the streets. He has asked both States to maintain peace. We have ensured that no untoward incident took place. It is important that similar measures are taken in Maharashtra," he said.

Keshava Murthy, gamaka exponent, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

H.R. Keshava Murthy, senior gamaka exponent who was honoured with the Padma Shri earlier this year, passed away at his residence at Hosahalli in Shivamogga taluk on Wednesday.

He was 89. He died due to age-related health problems. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, besides hundreds of students.

Family of artists

Mr. Keshava Murthy was born in a family of gamaka artists. He had his initial training from his father, Ramaswamy Shastry. He continued his studies under the guidance of Venkateshaiah.

Over the decades, he presented hundreds of programmes and trained many students. He publicised noted Kannada epics through his performances.

He had been honoured with many awards, including Shantala Natya Shri award, by the State government and different cultural organisations.

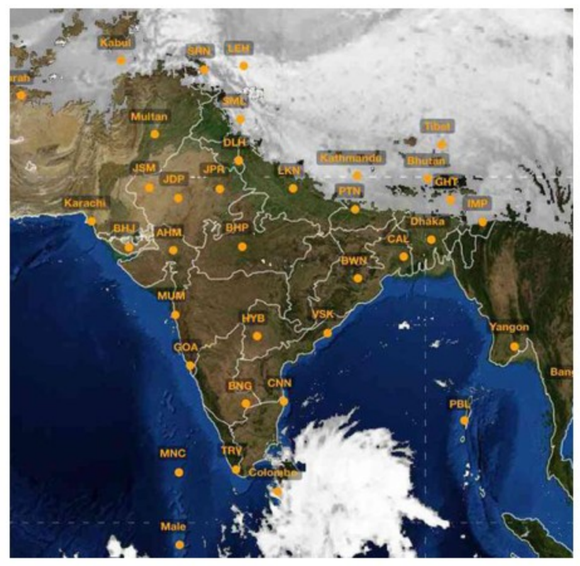
The former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra, Minister for Sericulture K.C. Narayana Gowda, who is also in-charge of Shivamogga, and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra mourned the death of Mr. Keshava Murthy.

Last rites

The final rites will be held at Hosahalli on Thursday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and Haryana. Dense/very dense fog likely in many/isolated pockets over Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, south Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.8	13.6	Kozhikode	—	33.4	23.7
Ahmedabad	—	32.0	14.0	Kurnool	—	33.0	18.2
Aizawl	—	—	7.8	Lucknow	—	24.4	7.6
Allahabad	—	25.6	7.6	Madurai	—	33.4	22.5
Bengaluru	—	27.7	17.2	Mangaluru	—	34.6	22.4
Bhopal	—	27.0	13.6	Mumbai	—	34.3	19.6
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	15.9	Mysuru	—	30.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	20.8	10.1	New Delhi	—	21.1	7.1
Chennai	—	30.0	23.3	Patna	—	23.2	12.0
Coimbatore	—	30.6	20.6	Port Blair	—	30.0	26.7
Dehradun	—	24.1	6.9	Puducherry	—	30.0	21.2
Gangtok	0.7	14.9	9.4	Pune	—	32.0	14.6
Goa	—	34.0	20.5	Raipur	—	30.2	15.0
Guwahati	—	27.7	13.8	Ranchi	—	25.2	9.6
Hubballi	—	31.0	16.0	Shillong	—	18.1	7.4
Hyderabad	—	30.0	16.0	Shimla	—	16.3	6.1
Imphal	—	23.9	6.5	Srinagar	—	11.7	-4.2
Jaipur	—	23.4	11.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.4	24.4
Kochi	—	32.2	24.6	Tiruchi	—	30.5	22.0
Kohima	—	19.2	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.2	19.4
Kolkata	—	26.2	14.7	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	21.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.41	160	.37	..37	..77	
Bengaluru	...1	..17	.27	..137	..104	
Chennai	.24	..60	.41	..203	..126	
Delhi	.18	..90	.96	..363	..337	
Hyderabad	...2	..45	.47	..167	..152	
Kolkata	.20	..27	.33	..313	..274	
Lucknow	.10	..59	154	..310	..236	
Mumbai	.41	158	.74	..379	..226	
Pune	..—	..—	.79	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	.32	..49	.41	..256	..192	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 464 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University U/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956),
Girinagar, Pune - 411 025.

Ph.D ADMISSION NOTICE – JANUARY- 2023

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology is an autonomous Institution, fully funded by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence, established with the objective of imparting Post Graduate Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences on thrust area relevant to Defence, Industries, R&D and also to conduct research in the Core areas of Defence Technologies.

DIAT invites applications for the Ph.D. programme under Institutional Scholarship Category, in Engineering and Applied Sciences Departments. Details of Programmes, Application form and other terms and conditions are available at **www.diat.ac.in**

In addition to the above, Industry Sponsored candidates, R & D Govt. Organisations, Tri-Services, DPSU's, DRDO Laboratories & DIAT (JRF/SRF/PA) & Candidates with CSIR-NET, DST, UGC-NET or any other National fellowship / scholarship available to them are also eligible to apply for Ph. D admission.

Aspiring candidates may apply for admission to Ph.D programme. Hard copy of the application along with relevant documents must reach to Joint Registrar (Academics), DIAT (DU) Girinagar, Pune-411025 latest by 1730 hours on or before 13th Jan 2023.

VEMAGAL-KURUGAL TOWN PANCHAYATH
Kolar Taluk.
website:www.tpvemagalkurugal@gmail.com

No.VKPP/TECH/SFC/CR/129/2022-23 Date: 19.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Government of Karnataka E-Procurement Portal only)

As per Karnataka Transparency in the Public Procurement act 1999-2000 law of Act 2000 and under standard tender documents Rules KW-2 the undersigned invites tenders in two cover system for eligible civil contractors through e-Procurement portal for the works detailed below. The tenderes may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-Procurement portal of the government of Karnataka **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned. **(1)** Last date and time for submission of tender: **05.01.2023 at 17.00 Hrs. (2)** Date and time of Opening Technical bids: **07.01.2023 at 17.00 Hrs. (3)** Date and time of Opening Financial bids: **16.01.2023 at 15.00 Hrs.**

P. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender (Rs.In lakhs)	EMD (Rs. In laksh)	Period
1	DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT140121	52.65	0.89	3 Months

Sd/- V.Sathyanarayana, Chief Officer, TP Vemagal-Kurugal.
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No.433/MC&A/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through e-procurement portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (D&QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	RB - IT	BWSSB/ERB/495/2022-23 Date: 19-12-2022	- / Rs.85,050/-	07-01-2023 upto 5.00 p.m.	09-01-2023 at 11.00 a.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (RB - IT)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

2.	North-West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/1867/2022-23 Date: 19-12-2022 (2nd Call)	Rs.8,39,445/- / Rs.21,000/-	31-12-2022 upto 4.00 p.m.	02-01-2023 after 10.30 a.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-West)-2

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3651/22-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ
ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ. ತಾ:: ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ. ಜಿ: ಧಾರವಾಡ 580023.
e-mail :- knnl@knnlindia.com ಫೋನ್ :0836–2315225 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:2315226.
Website:- www.knnlindia.com e-mail :-eemrbcc3byt@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–1/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2022–23/2127 ದಿ:–20/12/2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ **ಸಂ.3,** ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ **4701 M & MI** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂಬರಿನ **02** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ **4701 SCP** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂಬರಿನ **01** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Work Indent No :-34951, 34984 & 34953
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ.112.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:– ರೂ.2.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ.2.24 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **31/12/2022** ರ **4.00 pm** ತನಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02/01/2023** ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ: **11.00 am** ರಿಂದ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖೇನ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **0836–2315225** ನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾ/885/2022–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-35/16229/2022-23 Date: 21.12.2022

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works of **(1)** Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure at Plot No.2/C-1 to 5, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad District. **(2)** Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 24M Wide Roads, 18M Wide Roads & 15M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Utility Ducts & Chambers, & HDPE Water supply Line at Kanivehalli Boundary Block of Bavanahalli Industrial Area, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. **(3)** Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 30M, 24M & 18M Wide Roads Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line at Phase-2 Boundary Block, 3rd Phase Mulwada Industrial Area in Kolhar Taluk (Earlier Basavanabagewadi Taluk), Vijayapura District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **11.01.2023 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3658/Zen/2022-23

Government Of Karnataka
Deputy Commissioner Office, Koppal
District Urban Development Cell District: Koppal
State: Karnataka Office Ph : 08539-221895 Fax No : 08539-221235 **e-mail : itstaff_dudc_koppal@yahoo.com**

Ref. No: 83179/(KOP-DC-11/57/2022-PD(DUDC)_KOPDC-KOPPAL DC) Date: 20-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION: E-Procurement

The Executive Engineer, Koppal District, Koppal invites tenders who are registered eligible Electrical Contractors for, Chief Ministers Amruth Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Scheme in CMC Koppal Urban Local Body limit in Koppal District of Karnataka State as per Price Schedule listed in E-Procurement Portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Brief Description: 1.CMC Koppal Indent No: DMA/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT139989. (Call-2). **Approximate value of work (Rs. In Lakhs):** 400.00. **EMD (in Lakhs):** 6.00. **Period of Completion (Months):** 9

Available of Tender Forms (Through Online) **19-12-2022 Morning 10:00am onwards.** Last Date for Submission of Tender **03-01-2023Evening 5:30pm.** Date of Technical Bid opening Tenders **05-01-2023 Morning 10:00 am.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, DUDC, Koppal District
DIPR/Koppal/517/MCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Special Land Acquisition Officer-1, (Metro Rail Project),No. 14/3, 1st Floor,
Aravindha Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No. : KIADB/LAQ/METRO/Airportline-2B/2022-23 Date: 20.12.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Under section 28(2) of KIAD Act 1966)

It is hereby given publication for the information of the public that the KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD. Bengaluru has proposed to acquire the following scheduled properties for the purpose of 2nd Phase of METRO RAIL PROJECT. The Preliminary Notification Under Section 1(3), 3(1) & 28(1) in this behalf is issued vide Notification No: CI **312** SPQ (E) **2022** Bangalore dated **12.12.2022** by the Government of Karnataka and the same has already been published in the Karnataka Gazette dated **12.12.2022.**

All the absolute owners and interested persons in the Scheduled properties specified below shall file their OBJECTIONS IF ANY to the undersigned, Notice u/s 28(2) of KIAD Act, has already been served to the notified Khatedar/Anubhavdar, interested persons. As some of the property owners refused to receive the notice and address of some of the Khatedars are not available, notices could not be served. Hence, this notice is published in the Newspapers to provide opportunity to them.

Any contracts for the disposal of the said lands by sale, Mortgage, Assignment, Exchange or otherwise or any improvement made therein without prior permission of the competent authority, after the date of publication of this notification under the provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and KIAD Act 1966 will be disregarded while assessing compensation for such parts of the said lands as may be finally acquired.

The map of the area comprised therein and the notification specifying the lands which is proposed to be acquired may be verified in the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB, (Metro Rail Project) Bengaluru during the office hours on all working days. Enquiry is fixed **on 17.01.2023 at 11.30 AM** in the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, K.I.A.D.B. (Metro Rail Project), No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravindha Bhavana Building, Bengaluru. Interested persons are hereby requested to be present with relevant documents. Failing which, further action will be taken in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE

Enquiry Date: 17.01.2023 Time: 11.30 AM

Village : Nagawara Hobli: Kasaba Taluk: Bengaluru North District : Bengaluru

Sl. No.	Property Owner	I.D. No.	L.A/CTS Sy.No.	B.B.M.P Property No.	Area acquired (sq.Mtr)
1	M/s Davalagiri Property Developers Private Limited	ARP-VRP-ADL-1	87/3 87/2A	Sl.No.230/87/2A/ 87/3	1235.71 1527.22
2	Dr. Karthar Singh Lalwani S/o Tirath Singh Lalwani	ARP-VRP-ADL-A1	89/3	267/591/89/3	1419.70

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer-1, (Metro Rail Project),
Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

Concerning sequence

India's vaccination strategy should accommodate for SARS-CoV-2 changes

The spurt in coronavirus cases reported out of China has triggered global alarm. India's Health Ministry has issued a directive to States to send positive samples to the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) to check for new, concerning strains. The Health Minister, too, has called for a review meeting of the coronavirus situation in India. India's official numbers suggest that, thus far, there is little to worry. There are only 3,408 active cases. Only one district has a test positivity rate of over 10% and only four between 5 and 10%, as per the latest available weekly data. India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 219.33 crore, and there are no signs of distress being reported out of hospitals. However, the experience of previous years is that it is usually many weeks after which a noticeable spike, let alone a wave, is confirmed by health authorities. There is scarce monitoring and mask mandates for public gatherings, airports and railway stations have been removed everywhere; so, low numbers do not necessarily mean new variants are not taking root.

In China, despite reports of crowded mortuaries, hospital admissions piling up and stocked-out pharmacies, weekly death counts are officially in the single digits. The prevalent opinion is that the lifting of curbs, after almost three years of some of the most restrictive containment measures, has now exposed a large swathe of people who lack 'natural immunity'. Some mathematical modelling projections calculate a million COVID-19 cases in the coming days in China. Given that much of the world has moved to normalcy in terms of travel, the concern is that this surge is likely to reverberate globally with many more infections, even in India, inevitable. There are two key lessons that can be derived from the Chinese experience: long lockdowns cannot eliminate the virus or prevent the development of new strains, and the only reasonable defence possible against severe disease is via vaccines. China has largely depended on home-grown vaccines such as CoronaVac and Sinopharm vaccines that rely on the inactivated virus technology. Despite 90% of the population receiving a single dose, and half, a second dose, the numbers in China suggest that waning immunity is a *fait accompli*. The big lesson for India is to not only establish the prevalent coronavirus variants but also whether the administered vaccines continue to be efficacious. While most of the vaccines administered in India are Covishield, and thus of the spike protein, it may be time to accommodate for changes in the virus. The sequencing of strains by INSACOG should not remain an academic exercise.

Ties with Taliban

India must curtail Afghan engagement as long as the repressive regime exists

In its latest outrageous decision, the Taliban regime has announced a ban on female students studying in universities. The "cabinet" meeting decision is one in a series that wipes out the many societal gains since 2001, the last time the Taliban was in power. These decrees include banning Afghan schoolgirls from studying above grade six, job restrictions and a ban on women at gyms and public parks, with public floggings for those travelling without male relatives chaperoning them. In effect, a regime that is growing crueller and less rational by the day, wants about half the country's population out of public sight. Making the decision publicly and officially is the regime's way of thumbing its nose at the international community by reneging on promises made during the Doha talks, including establishing an "inclusive" government. The international community must now review its current policy towards the Taliban 2.0 regime. While no country recognises the Taliban officially, many openly engage with the regime leaders; more than a dozen, including India, have diplomatic missions. The Government has sought to explain its decision to go back into Afghanistan and to even meet with Ministers such as Sirajuddin Haqqani who were responsible for attacks and killings at Indian missions as pragmatic policy to ensure India's security and the smooth delivery of aid. In fact, these policies have only made it more comfortable for the Taliban to continue to rule, while giving shelter to terrorist organisations, including those that target India. In addition, New Delhi's decision to cancel all visas to Afghans, hurt female students seeking an education in India the most.

Instead of pleading helplessness, there is much that the global community can do, acknowledging that women's rights are at the core of the issue with the Taliban, and not just a "desirable" outcome that is optional in Afghanistan's future. It must curtail engagement with the Taliban, which depends on external assistance to run its government structures. Leading nations should also create platforms outside Afghanistan for non-Taliban Afghan leaders, particularly women who had been elected in the past, to regroup, organise and voice an alternative vision to the dark one the Taliban seems set at thrusting the country into. India, as a regional leader, must review its "hands-off" approach to the people of Afghanistan who have clearly suffered many deprivations in the past year. Lofty words at the United Nations Security Council and other international fora have done very little to alleviate those hardships, and even less to further India's interests or goodwill amongst a people that it has historically been seen as a good friend to.

The need to make cancer drugs affordable

Biswajit Dhar
is Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Chetali Rao
is Consultant, Third World Network

With the Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Health expressing concern over the high cost of cancer treatment, the Government invoking Section 100 of the Patents Act is a way forward

The subject of the spiralling costs of cancer medicines and their implications that have frequently been highlighted the world over were dwelled on in a recent report ("Cancer Care Plan and Management") by the Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Health (bit.ly/3jfmxLG). Alluding to the implications of the high cost of cancer care, the Committee noted that "about 40% of cancer hospitalization cases are financed mainly through borrowings, sale of assets and contributions from friends and relatives". This situation has arisen, according to the Committee, because "even average out of pocket spending on cancer care is too high" and that "spending for cancer care in private facilities is about three times that of public facilities". The Committee has, thus, highlighted the seriousness of problems concerning the treatment of cancer, the estimated incidence of which in India was nearly 1.4 million in 2020.

Impact on survival rates

The catastrophic treatment cost has seriously impacted survival rates in developing countries. In breast cancer, while the five-year survival rates in India and South Africa are estimated to be 65% and 45%, respectively, in contrast, in high-income countries, it is nearly 90%. In its explanation of this dismal situation, a World Health Organization (WHO) report on pricing of cancer medicines and its impacts had stated that the cost of a course of standard treatment for early stage HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor) positive breast cancer would be equivalent to about 10 years of average annual wages in India and South Africa and 1.7 years in the United States (bit.ly/3v0iRQm).

According to WHO, the costs associated with other medical care and interventions (such as surgical interventions and radiotherapy) and supportive care would make overall care even more unaffordable.

In the treatment protocol for breast cancer, CDK (cyclin-dependent kinase) inhibitors constitute a major therapeutic tool, especially for metastatic breast cancer. Three drugs, Ribociclib, Palbociclib and Abemaciclib, belong to this therapeutic class, which help in slowing the spread of cancer cells in the body. A month's treatment using these drugs could range between ₹48,000 and ₹95,000 and the patient is expected to take one of these medicines for the rest of her life.

If one can tabulate the use of cancer drugs and the approximate price for a month's treatment one has: Ribociclib (Novartis) ₹64,455; Palbociclib (Pfizer) ₹87,000; Abemaciclib (Elli Lilly) between ₹47,752 and ₹95,000 (Sources: www.1mg.com; pharmeasy.in/).

The justifications by pharma companies

Excessive costs of breast cancer medicines can be explained by the interplay of two related factors. The first is the argument advanced by the large pharmaceutical companies – that they spend over $3 billion in bringing a new molecule to the market, which they must recoup in order to remain in the market for innovation. However, the WHO report mentioned above observed that spending on research and development may bear little or no relationship to how pharmaceutical companies set cancer medicine prices. Companies set prices with an eye to maximise profits, thus denying patients from taking advantage of medical breakthroughs.

A second factor that allows the companies to sustain their high profit margins is intellectual property protection. Over the past three decades, pharma companies in the developed world have successfully persuaded their governments to strengthen the rights that they derive from patents and other forms of intellectual property rights by which they can exercise monopoly control over their products. Moreover, the scope and the power of these monopolies can become nearly absolute due to several factors, of which two are as follows.

Ordinarily, patent rights over a medicine last until the expiry of its patent term, after which generic competition leads to a reduction in its price. However, in the case of several non-communicable diseases, including cancer, the situation could be quite different. Even before the generic producers enter the market, newer therapies could be introduced as standard care for treatment, replacing drugs of an earlier generation. Additionally, in the case of pharmaceutical patents, the leading firms in the industry often obtain patents on incremental innovations involving older medicines ("evergreening" of patents), thus extending their monopoly rights over the medicines.

The three breast cancer medicines mentioned above are currently under patent protection – implying that Indian companies cannot manufacture these medicines without the consent of the right holders. Pfizer's patent rights on Palbociclib will expire in 2023, while Novartis' rights on Ribociclib and Elly Lilly's rights on Abemaciclib would expire between 2027 and 2029, respectively. Therefore, high prices on these medicines will continue at least until 2029, and possibly beyond, if these drugs are subjected to "evergreening".

The lack of access to these critical medicines has not only pushed the life of patients and their families into deep financial stress but it has also jeopardised their right to live with dignity, a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court of India has interpreted right to life as the most precious human right, which forms the "ark of all other rights must therefore be interpreted in a broad and expansive spirit so as to invest it with significance and vitality which may endure for years to come and enhance the dignity of the individual and the worth of the human person" (bit.ly/3BKL6Gx). In this spirit, the Court has, in several judgments interpreted right to health as an extension of right to life under Article 21. Further, it must be mentioned that according to the WHO Constitution, "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being" (bit.ly/3WpSvDg).

A way out

Thus, when all aforementioned considerations demand that cancer medicines must be provided to the suffering at affordable prices, what are the options before the Government? The most obvious option is to authorise Indian companies to domestically produce high-priced cancer medicines, including those mentioned above, by granting compulsory licences (CLs) in keeping with Sections 84 and 92 of the Patents Act. The CLs override patent rights, enabling domestic companies to manufacture generic alternatives when prices of patented medicines are high. Alternatively, the Government can invoke provisions of Section 100, which empowers it to authorise any entity to use a patented invention without the authorisation of the patent holder. Section 100 can be useful if no domestic company shows interest in obtaining a CL for any of the cancer medicines mentioned above. In view of the concerns expressed by the Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Health regarding the high prices of cancer medicines, invoking the provisions of Section 100 seems to be the best way forward.

In the recently concluded WTO Ministerial conference, there was an agreement that the CLs can be used for increasing domestic production of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines by developing countries. When the present situation looks propitious for the granting of CLs, why is the Indian government stepping aside from using this instrument to promote the domestic production of cancer medicines, and making them affordable?

The 'invincible originality' of Srinivasa Ramanujan

S. Varahasimhan
is a senior professional developing software solutions with artificial intelligence

The contributions of the mathematical genius, whose birth anniversary falls today, are inimitable even in the age of artificial intelligence

It was Shakespeare who said, "To hold as 'twere, the mirror up to nature".

The English computer scientist Alan Turing's "imitation game" or "Turing test" takes the stance that a machine successfully represents a human if it responds to a question like a human mind does. From Plato's *mimesis* (representation) as the principle of art, to the Turing test, and to recent progresses in artificial intelligence, "the key to artificial intelligence has always been the representation" (Jeff Hawkins).

Taking representation further, can a machine "create" new things? Latest advancements in technology have attempted to "create". The recent buzz around ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer), a software tool that can answer questions on almost any topic, carry on conversations with humans, write poems, computer programs and perform many more complex tasks that require intelligence, is testimony that artificial intelligence can "create". One can also mention here Google's product LaMDA (Language Model for Dialogue Applications) that is similar to ChatGPT and other sophisticated products (Dall E) that can create image from verbal descriptions. Broadly speaking, the products mentioned above learn to be creative from already existing information: human conversations and documents and pictures, to synthesise and create.

Research by a machine

Extending these capabilities, can a machine do research? In early 2021, a team of Israeli scientists announced a software tool called The Ramanujan Machine that creates mathematical conjectures which are equations without proof. Mathematicians then prove or disprove these conjectures, thereby establishing theorems. Conjectures in mathematics shed light on newer frontiers that otherwise lurk in tenebrous corners. Srinivasa Ramanujan was famous for such conjectures. From 1904 till his passing in 1920, Ramanujan, recorded more than 3,000 equations that were mostly conjectures because he did not supply proof. The American mathematician Bruce C. Berndt, an expert on Ramanujan's works, says that most of Ramanujan's conjectures are correct as established by the proofs provided *pari passu* with their generalisation in the last 100 years.

'Unparalleled ability'

How does the Ramanujan Machine imitate Ramanujan? To understand this, one may consider Ramanujan's formulae on π (22/7 is only an approximation to π). In 1914, Ramanujan published multiple formulae to compute using modular equation which is, roughly speaking, an equation in x that equals the same equation in powers of x, i.e., x^n; the solutions of the equation were manipulated to yield the decimals of to astonishing accuracy. The mathematicians J.M. Borwein and P.B. Borwein who computed to great accuracy in the 1980s said, "Ramanujan was unparalleled in his ability".

However, the Ramanujan Machine adopts a different approach to compute formulae for mathematical constants such as π, e, etc. It does so by taking a mathematical structure such as a continuous fraction on one side of an equation and the mathematical constant such as π on the other side, with the two sides yet to be matched. The software then employs high computing power and algorithms to iteratively match both sides and a conjecture is discovered. In the last couple of years, dozens of conjectures have been discovered this way.

Is this advancement a pronouncement that Ramanujan's creativity was held high solely by the stanchions of his calculating speed and memory? Mathematicians aver that Ramanujan's intuition, as seen in his works, was *non pareil*; Ramanujan could connect different mathematical domains deeply with "invincible originality" (G.H. Hardy). The ramifications of such connections between mathematical abstractions that Ramanujan was prescient of have continued to unravel for over a century now, leading to remarkable technological applications. For example, elliptic curves are widely studied in number theory because of their properties that have applications in cryptography which make computer network communications secure. Ramanujan's contributions here are significant: he developed certain equations called class invariants which generate elliptic curves suitable for encryption and this led to Elliptic Curve Cryptography, an efficient cryptographic technique, in 1985, many decades after his demise.

A leap of genius

Another instance of his originality was his discovery of mock-theta functions, his swan song; working on it might have been a palliative to him in his painful last days. George Andrews, an American mathematician and an expert on mock theta function, elegantly surmised that Ramanujan might have discovered it by starting from hypergeometric series whose consecutive terms form ratios that follow a pattern. George Andrews adds that it is a plausible method to arrive at mock-theta functions "provided you had the genius to recognize".

In the light of such deep insights from Ramanujan, George Andrews remarked on the eponymous machine, "I expect its role to be that of an important auxiliary tool." Formulae involving fundamental constants such as π have been discovered only sporadically in mathematical history; and by making such discoveries automatic and more frequent, the machine can lead to more frequent mathematical advancements. In general, artificial intelligence tools are expected to make things happen faster because they now imitate cogitation.

As for Ramanujan, he is inimitable even in the age of artificial intelligence – as any genius is.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Political advertisments'

The Delhi Lieutenant Governor's 'orders' for the recovery of ₹97 crore from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi, though tinted with a shade of political vendetta, involves the basic question of misuse of public money to serve party interests.

Government-financed, election-oriented media advertisements, intended to advance the prospects of ruling parties and up the images of party leaders, are a usual scenario in our democratic governance. The public perception is rightly included in the report of the N.R. Madhava Menon panel, set up by the top court, which highlighted that 'most government advertisements are misuse of public funds and are directed to gain political mileage for the ruling party and glorification of leaders'.

In the Delhi case, the AAP has to elaborate on the existence of a Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising and whether the committee had investigated the advertisements as in a High Court order.

It is not enough to evade the question. The media too is very unlikely to highlight the issues involved, obviously for its own monetary interests in the advertisement charges.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

Delineation is critical

The point is the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army of China have different perceptions of where the Line of Actual Control (LAC), between the territories of India and China lies, fuelling conflicts since 1962 between the troops posted in these high altitudes. With the LAC not having been delineated and demarcated adequately, the LAC is open to interpretations. This is also creating conflict among the political class, in turn demoralising our jawans. With the latest technologies, is it not possible to delineate the borders, and identify the buffer zones?

J.R.D. Rajakumar,
Chennai

Conversion

Religion is a code of moral principles based on the teachings of god. People, therefore, have a right to adopt any religion. If conversion is for money or by coercion, sincerity of heart is doubtful. But some politicians add colour to the issue by politicising it to suit their needs.

M.A. Sheriff,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Benchmarks for ECs' appointments

Jagdeep S. Chhokar

is the Co-founder of election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), which is a petitioner in the case in the Supreme Court

The way India's constitutional and political structures have evolved over the years seems to have made elections almost a mechanistic and ritualistic exercise. The reason behind this is the setting up and functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI). This has come into public discourse because of the hearings in the Supreme Court on the appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs).

While many issues related with the ECI have been discussed in court hearings and outside, a deeper look at the ECI may be useful, given its role in the preservation of democracy in the country.

Working of the Constitution

Article 324 of the Constitution is the fountainhead that creates the ECI. This brings to mind the larger issue of the working of the Constitution. For this, it is worth recalling what two stalwarts of Constitution-making (the President of the Constituent Assembly (CA) and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Constitution) said in their final speeches in the CA when the Constitution was finally adopted.

While commending the adoption of the Constitution to the CA on November 25, 1949, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said, "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot. The working of a Constitution does not depend wholly upon the nature of the Constitution."

The next day, on November 26, 1949, almost echoing Dr. Ambedkar's words, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend upon the way in which the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it... If the people who are elected are capable and men of character and integrity, they would be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. After all, a Constitution, like a machine, is a lifeless thing. It acquires life because of the men who control it and operate it, and India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men who will have the interest of the country before them."

If we take the above-mentioned views of the two luminaries as a guide for choosing who should be assigned the task of ensuring that the roots of democracy are kept appropriately watered and nourished, the answer is Election Commissioners (ECs).

All the arguments and proposals mentioned during the court hearings will, obviously, be an improvement over the existing system of appointment of ECs but if we want ECs to match the qualities stated by Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Prasad, then we need to go beyond how Article 324 of the Constitution and the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, have been operationalised so far.

Elevation of EC to CEC

One major weakness in the system(s) of appointments of the ECs proposed so far is that they all perpetuate the bureaucratisation of the ECI, which is not even hinted at in the Constitution anywhere. Two visible manifestations of this are the so-called elevation of ECs to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), and the tenures of ECs and CEC. The elevation is a clear violation of the principle of *primus inter pares*. Monopolisation of the positions of ECs and CEC by the administrative services is too obvious to need highlighting.

> Monopolisation of the positions of ECs and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) by the administrative services is too obvious these days

So, how do we find persons who will come close to the expectation of Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Prasad? For this, we need to go outside the existing frameworks. Marginal improvements are not going to be enough. Bold actions are called for.

For this, the following process is proposed. An existing committee of Parliament or a new committee formed for this purpose should propose the qualifications and requirements for persons to be appointed as ECs/CEC. The proposals of the committee should be put to Parliament and should be considered approved only if they are approved by two-thirds majority of the members of Parliament present and voting. Once the qualifications and requirements have been approved by Parliament, the same committee should be entrusted with the task of searching for and selecting individuals proposed to be appointed as ECs/CEC.

The committee should invite nominations and applications of individuals appropriate for or interested in being appointed as ECs/CEC.

The committee should send its recommendations to Parliament for consideration. Recommendations of the committee should be considered approved by Parliament only if approved by two-thirds majority of the members of Parliament present and voting. Once Parliament approves the recommendations, they should be sent to the President for approving the appointments. Once appointed, such persons should stay in their positions for six years or the age of 75 years, whichever is earlier. Persons above the age of 69 years should not be appointed.

Obviously, the above will be seen to be a very cumbersome process, particularly given that Parliament is more or less dysfunctional today. Nonetheless, if the democracy in its real sense is to be preserved in the country, the importance of the ECI has to be recognised and accepted.

A shot in the arm for SP-RLD alliance

It defended its bastion in Mainpuri and wrested Khatauli from the BJP

STATE OF PLAY

Anuj Kumar
anuj.kumar@thehindu.co.in

The result of the keenly contested bypolls for two Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh has come as a shot in the arm for the beleaguered Samajwadi Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal alliance in the State.

The principal Opposition defended its bastion in Mainpuri Lok Sabha and wrested Khatauli from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by cementing ties that it could not stitch during the Assembly polls earlier this year. In Rampur Sadar, Azam Khan lost his citadel but the party secured a moral point. SP president Akhilesh Yadav learnt his lessons from the reverses of Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha bypolls and canvased extensively for his wife Dimple Yadav in Mainpuri, where the party's prestige was at stake as the bypoll was necessitated because of the demise of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.

The margin of the victory swelled to almost three times that of the last polls, when the party fought in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). It was fuelled by the return of Shivpal Yadav, the estranged uncle of Mr. Akhilesh, to the family fold with full force, ensuring lead in all five assembly constituencies of Mainpuri Lok Sabha. Earlier this year, the BJP won two of the segments. The biggest margin was registered in Jaswantnagar, the Assembly seat represented by Mr. Shivpal.

Mr. Shivpal was under the radar of the ruling party and when he gravitated towards the family, the frustration of the BJP was evident as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described him as a pendulum.

In Khatauli, which the SP left for the RLD, the alliance went for the Muslim-Jat-Gurjar combination this time and also garnered some Dalit votes as it joined hands with Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party (ASP), a social coalition that the alliance missed during the Assembly polls.

By fielding a Gurjar strongman, the RLD is pursuing an aggressive brand of politics in the region to take on the local BJP heavyweights from Jat and Saini communities. The victory has consolidated RLD president Jayant Singh's position as the foremost Jat leader despite the BJP's recent outreach towards the community that led the farmers' protest against the contentious farm laws and demand for a law against minimum support price (MSP).

Alongside the caste equation, by raising issues of hike in state approved price (SAP) of sugarcane, flaws in the Agniveer Scheme, compensation for the deceased in the Lakhimpur Kheri case and moving a private member Bill to amend the age of candidature in Parliament and State legislatures to 21 years, Mr. Singh is addressing concerns of farmers and the youth.

In Rampur Sadar, the alliance lost its bastion to the BJP but gained the moral high ground as the voting percentage remained low at 33%, raising questions on the fairness of the poll. It busted the BJP's claim that the Pasmandas in the Muslim majority seat would vote for the party.

Interestingly, with the Jat support, Muslims came out in large numbers to vote for the RLD in Khatauli, but the minority community could not find any such cover in Rampur to offset the administration, which seemed keen on a low turnout in Muslim pockets.

Being the first polls under the leadership of State president Bhupendra Chaudhary, the results have left the BJP with a lot to think about, particularly in the sugarcane belt – the epicentre of communal polarisation that brought the BJP to power in 2017.

It has now lost five of six seats in the Muzaffarnagar Lok Sabha seat, represented by Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan who harvested votes for the BJP after the communal riots of 2013. Out of the four seats that are with the SP-RLD alliance, two have Gurjar MLAs and two are represented by Jats. Observers indicate that giving the reins of the State unit in the hands of a Jat leader and appointing Dharmpal Saini as the organisation general secretary has not really shown the desired result so far.

The results will also force the BSP to rethink its strategy as Muslims do not seem to be ditching the SP and a section of Dalits is seeing in Mr. Azad the fighting spirit that Mayawati once espoused. Going forward, all eyes will be on how the SP-RLD accommodates Mr. Azad and what Mr. Akhilesh offers to Mr. Shivpal.

The next test is the elections for the urban local bodies in January. While Mr. Adityanath has described it as the third engine that the party needs, the Opposition would like to build on the stimulus that the bypoll results have provided.

With 11 million cases, infections surge globally in December

COVID-related deaths were higher even in nations with better coverage of booster shots

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Over 11 million new COVID-19 cases were reported in December worldwide. The new infections were not confined to a region, but were spread across all continents, barring Africa.

A look at the top 15 countries which contributed the most cases in December shows that five were from Asia and Europe each, two from Oceania and South America each, and one from North America as shown in chart 1.

Chart 1 depicts the number of new cases recorded in the first 20 days of December for the top 15 countries. India's figure is also provided as a reference. Japan leads the list with 2.58 million infections followed by South Korea (1.23 million) and the United States (1.19 million). Meanwhile, India has recorded only about 3,600 cases in this period.

Chart 2 depicts the number of new deaths recorded in the first twenty days of December for the top 15 countries which had reported the most cases in this period. India's figure is also provided as a reference. The U.S tops the list with over 7,500 deaths followed by Japan (4,086 deaths) and Brazil (2,615 deaths). India has recorded 58 deaths in the period.

Notably, the number of reported deaths in China in December was nine, the lowest among the countries considered. In fact, even lower than India's, which is not part of the top 15 list and where the cases have remained very low. However, reports from China are pointing otherwise. A crematorium worker in Chongqing, a city of 30 million in the south west, told the AFP that they had run out of space to keep bodies.

In the southern megapolis of Guangzhou, an employee at one crematorium in Zengcheng district said they were cremating more than 30 bodies a day. In the northeastern city of Shenyang, a staff member at a funeral services business said the bodies of the deceased were being left unburied for up to five days because crematoriums are "absolutely packed".

Surprisingly, deaths were also higher in countries which have made strides in vaccinations. More than 4,000 COVID-19 deaths have been recorded in Japan in December, despite 83% of the population completing the initial two doses. Moreover, 127 booster doses have been administered per 100 people in Japan – the highest among the countries listed in chart 1 and 2.

In South Korea and Taiwan too, over 500 deaths have been recorded despite at least 86% of the population receiving the first two doses and over 80 booster shots being administered per 100 people in both nations.

Chart 3 shows the % of population in the countries listed in chart 1 who took the first two doses till December 20, 2022. **Chart 4** shows the number of booster shots administered per 100 people across the same countries. However, the data on vaccination status of those who died in December will help gauge the impact of vaccines better.

The **charts 5** and **6** show COVID-related hospitalisations in the U.S. and number of patients in the ICU in France and Germany. The weekly hospitalisations in the U.S. is on a rising trend and was close to the 40,000 mark on December 18. The number of ICU patients in France and Germany were also on an increasing trend with over 1,000 such patients as of December 20.

While cases continue to be low in India, the share of people who received both the initial doses remained below 70% and only 15.7 booster shots have been administered per 100 people, which is among the lowest in the countries considered. But India also underwent three major COVID-19 waves with many infected.

Counting the cases and deaths

The graphs are sourced from ourworldindata. Cases are rising across all continents barring Africa. Deaths are increasing even in nations with better vaccination coverage

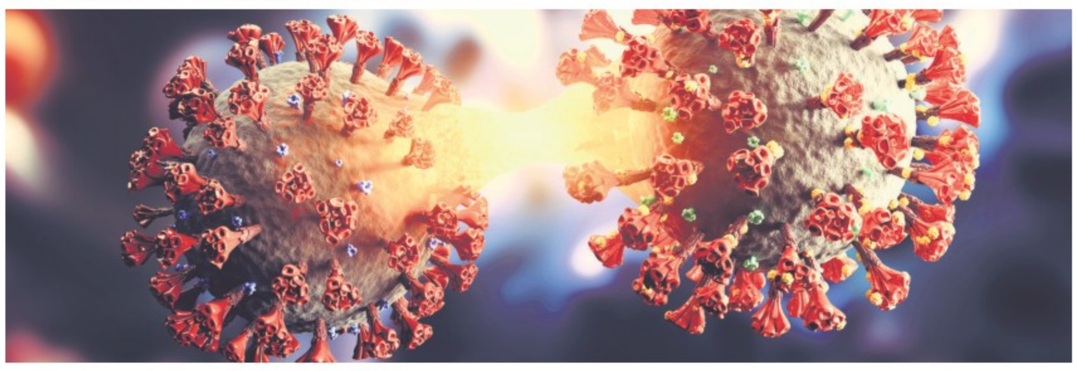


Chart 1: The chart shows the number of new cases recorded in the first 20 days of December in top 15 countries

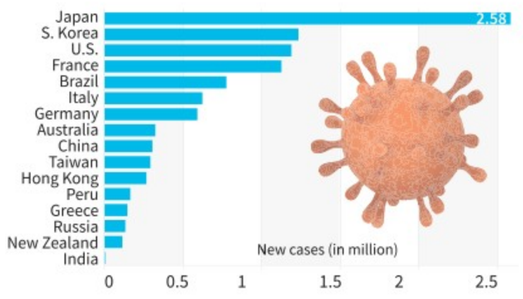


Chart 2: The chart shows the number of new deaths in the first 20 days of December in top 15 countries with most cases

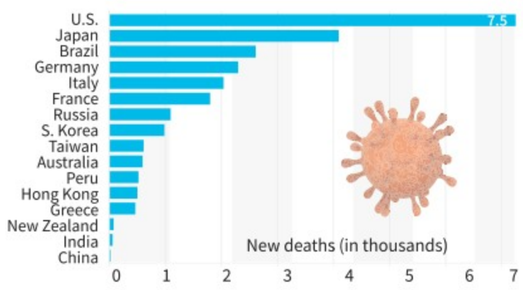


Chart 3: The chart shows the % of population who took the first two doses in the countries listed in chart 1

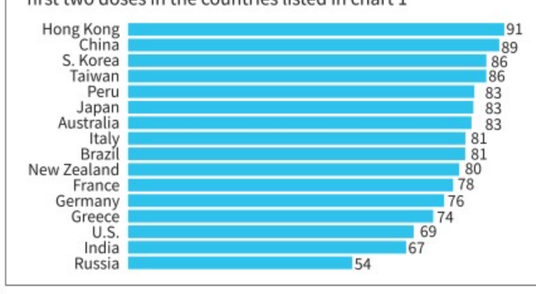


Chart 4: The chart shows the number of booster shots administered per 100 people in countries listed in chart 1

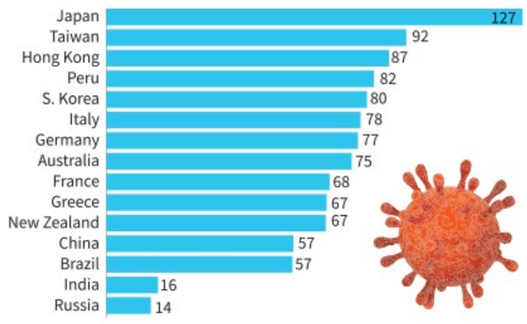


Chart 5: The chart shows the weekly hospitalisations in lakh in the United States

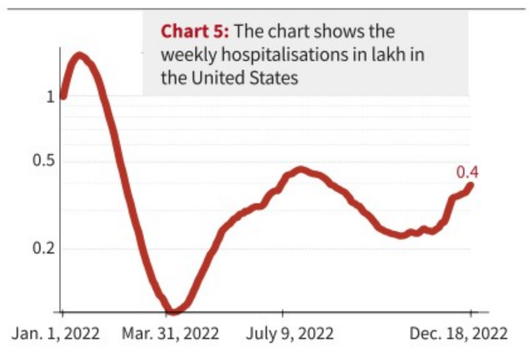
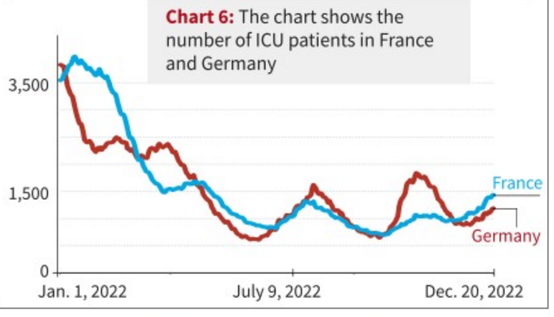


Chart 6: The chart shows the number of ICU patients in France and Germany



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 22, 1972

No political motive in textile mill takeover

New Delhi, Dec. 21: The Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. L.N. Mishra told the Rajya Sabha to-day that the Government proposed to take over those textile miles which had failed to carry out modernisation on their own. They would be taken over after declaring them as "sick" units, he said. He was replying to the debate on the Sick Textile Undertakings (taking over of management) Bill, authorising the take-over of 46 textile mills in various parts of the country, which the House later adopted. The House rejected among other things a marxist, communist amendment seeking to rest all sick textile units in the Central government. Mr. Mishra reiterated that the government did not contemplate nationalisation of the textile industry as such. The action taken under the Bill was purely aimed at "restoring the health" of one of the oldest Indian industries with a good record of service. Mr. Mishra said the government proposed to modernise the taken-over mills, improve production and the working conditions of the employees. He categorically denied that there were "political motives" behind the programme of selective take-over of mills. He said the government laid great stress on modernisation of mills as it was vital for "our survival in world markets". He said the government expected the textile mills to modernise themselves. If it could not be done, the management could declare them as sick or the government would itself declare them so and take them over.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 22, 1922

Silver market

London: Montagu's Silver Report states that the market has displayed a rather weak tendency, mainly on account of easier rates in China and appreciation of sterling in the United States. Indian bazaars have been buying for shipment but to a large extent, sales of silver have been made at the same time for two months' delivery. Bear covering has been carried out rather reluctantly in view of doubtful outlook ahead. The substantial discount at which price for forward delivery stands indicates little confidence obtaining regarding the future. The continent has sold and supplies are fairly free notwithstanding the lower level of prices.

From Page One

Variant linked to China spike first found in July

India has been reporting a "steady decline" in cases, with average numbers around 158 every day in the week ending December 19. Globally however, there has been a rise in daily average cases in the last six weeks, with about 6 lakh instances reported weekly as of December 19, the Health Ministry said in a statement. The dominant variant in India currently is Omicron AB5, (which is linked to BF.7) although this is based on extremely limited numbers.

"Whether BF.7 behaves differently in a population that has been minimally exposed to the coronavirus as opposed to Indians who have hybrid immunity (multiple doses of the vaccine along with exposure to several variants of the virus) is being investigated by the Indian Council of Medical Research," one of the officials told *The Hindu*.

An expert told *The Hindu* that India's real worry was not BF.7 but XBB, a recombinant variant that is a combination of two lineages (BJ.1 and BA.2.75). It is "highly infectious" and had the potential to evade antibodies from existing vaccines. *(With inputs from Satyasundar Barik)*

'Follow COVID protocols or suspend yatra'

"Follow the COVID guidelines strictly during Bharat Jodo Yatra. Use of masks-sanitiser should be implemented. Only vaccinated people should participate," Mr. Mandaviya said in a letter to Mr. Gandhi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday. The Health Minister said that BJP MPs from Rajasthan P.P. Chaudhary and Nihal Chand had written to him, expressing concerns over the guidelines not being followed.

Reacting to the letter, Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a statement, "Parliament is meeting normally. Masks are no longer compulsory anywhere, including on flights. BJP has taken out yatras in Rajasthan and Karnataka. There has been no advisory from the Centre to States of late except the one issued yesterday on genome sequencing." "Public health is far too serious a issue on which to play party politics. If there is a protocol for gatherings, Bharat Jodo Yatra will abide by it undoubtedly," he added.

Mr. Gehlot said the BJP was upset with the popularity of the long march and wanted to disturb it. "Two days ago, the Prime Minister addressed a rally in Tripura, where no COVID protocol was followed. If the Health Minister is really concerned [about COVID infection] and his intent is not political, then he should have written the first letter to the Prime Minister," Mr. Gehlot said.

'Unemployment and inflation hurting India'

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over price rise, Mr. Gandhi said that while Mr. Modi used to talk about inflation earlier, the prices of cooking gas cylinder and petrol had increased several fold during the present regime.

"A cooking gas cylinder cost ₹400 during the UPA rule, but now it is priced at ₹1,200. Similarly, petrol price has crossed ₹100 per litre mark now, while it cost only ₹60 during the UPA regime," he said.

Mr. Gandhi, without naming anyone, said there was an attempt to hand over the country's entire wealth to a few big corporate houses. He added that demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax were not "policies", but "weapons" to kill small and medium traders.

He also made a suggestion to Congress party president Mallikarjun Kharge to ensure that wherever the Congress is in power, the party's Ministers and MLAs must hit the road once a month to connect with the masses.

Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh, at a press conference, said the yatra was a "historic step" for the Congress and also a "moment of change" for Indian politics.

Forest buffer zone won't affect people: Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday assured people living on the extremities of protected forests spread across 115 densely populated panchayats that they would not lose their land or livelihood to the Supreme Court-suggested one-kilometre buffer zone around ecologically sensitive localities (ESZ).

At a press conference here, he accused "vested political interests" of misleading the public by falsely blaming the government for "arbitrarily ordering a satellite survey to demarcate the proposed no-human habitation zone to the detriment of thousands of settler farmers".

He said the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) opposition, with a mischievous eye on turning the affected population against the LDF, eclipsed that the Supreme Court ordered the contentious survey.

Mr. Vijayan said the public genuinely worried the survey glossed over hundreds of spartan homes, large swathes of cultivated land, public and commercial buildings and subsistence structures, chiefly mud and thatched constructions.

Delhi excise case: court takes cognisance of chargesheet

ED alleges that all the five named accused were found to have indulged in activities related to the generation of the proceeds of crime or associated offences, either directly or indirectly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A special court has taken cognisance of a chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Indospirit Group managing director Sameer Mahendru and four others in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. The agency has so far detected ₹2,873 crore as alleged proceeds of crime.

Taking cognisance of the chargesheet, Special Judge M.K. Nagpal on Tuesday said that based on the contents of the complaint, statements of witnesses and other documentary evidence provided by the ED, it appeared that all the five named accused were found to have either directly or indirectly indulged in the activities related to the generation of the proceeds of crime or associated offences.

Among those named as accused in the chargesheet are Mr. Mahendru, Khao Gali Restaurants Private Ltd,, Bubbly Beverages Private Ltd., Indo Spirits and Indospirit Distribution Ltd. The ED's money laundering investigation is based on a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation on August 17 against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others. It has carried out 171 searches in several States and arrested Mr. Mahendru, P. Sarath Chandra Reddy, Benoy Babu, Vijay Nair and Abhishek Boinpally in connection with the case.

Legal hook: Abhishek Boinpally and Vijay Nair, accused in the excise policy case, being produced before a court in November. PTI

Based on the findings, the agency has alleged that the Expect Committee's recommendations for the excise policy 2021-22 were modified as part of a conspiracy to "generate illegal funds".

'Meticulously planned'

"The policy was formulated with deliberate loopholes, inbuilt mechanism to facilitate illegal activities and is marred with inconsistencies. It promoted cartel formations through back door, awarded exorbitant wholesale (12%) and huge retail profit margin of 185% and incentivised other illegal activities. The 12% profit margin to wholesalers was devised to extract a portion of it (about 6%) as a kickback to AAP leaders," it alleged. The purported kickbacks were paid in advance. According to the ED, the then AAP media promotion in-charge Vijay Nair, on behalf of the party leaders, received kickbacks to the tune of ₹100 crore from the "South Group" whose prominent persons were Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, Raghav Magunta, Sarath Reddy and K. Kavitha.

In order to recover the money paid by the group, its partners were allegedly given 65% stakes in wholesale licensee Indo Spirits in collusion with Mr. Mahendru, as directed by Mr. Nair, the agency said in the chargesheet. It alleged that the group directly and indirectly controlled nine retail zones.

It also alleged that at least 36 accused persons/suspects destroyed or used 170 phones in order to evade detection. "The magnitude of the destruction is such that most accused, liquor barons, senior government officials, Excise Minister of Delhi and other suspects have changed their phones multiple times...," the agency said.

Centre withholding Bengal's MGNREGS funds: Trinamool

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Ministry says that funds were frozen after the State failed to send a response to the questions

Withholding funds due to West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is "political discrimination" by the Union government, the Trinamool Congress said in the Rajya Sabha, as the two sides sparred on the issue in the Upper House on Wednesday.

Invoking Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Centre has blocked payment of over ₹7,500 crore of funds to West Bengal for "non-compliance of directives of the Central government". Of this amount, the wage liability is ₹2,744 crore. With panchayat polls scheduled just months away in March 2023, the Trinamool is arguing that the Union government had wilfully denied wages to the poor, who had not been paid over a year for the work they did under the scheme.

During the Question Hour in the House, Trinamool MP Jawahar Sircar asked the Rural Development Ministry for details on the States that had not received any funds in the ongoing financial year under the MGNREGS.

In response, the Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, said only West Bengal fell under this category. Mr. Sircar alleged "gross injustice" against the State, in spite of the fact that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had ordered verification of every job card.

'No discrimination'

Ms. Jyoti said the Centre did not "discriminate" against any State. "But there are a few guidelines under the MGNREGA that all States have to follow. She added that the funds were frozen after the State government failed to send in a detailed response to the questions raised by a Central team that investigated the implementation of the scheme in 2019.

"This is political discrimination before our panchayat elections," Mr. Sircar claimed.

J&K, Ladakh to showcase cultural heritage on sidelines of G-20 meetings to be held in 2023

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Union Territories (UT) of J&K and Ladakh have started preparations for the G-20 meetings, as India is set to host 43 heads of delegations in September next year.

"One G-20 meeting is being held in Srinagar. We have requested that one meeting is also held in Jammu," J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said at a press conference in Jammu on Wednesday.

Mr. Sinha chaired a high-level meeting on Tuesday to take stock of the preparations made for the upcoming G-20 summit meetings, a government spokesman said.

In the spotlight: The Shankaracharya temple in Srinagar lit up with the G-20 logo. NISSAR AHMAD

"The meetings under India's presidency is also an opportunity to share Jammu and Kashmir's achievements and to showcase its rich cultural heritage. We want people's participation from J&K," Mr. Sinha said. He said security was not a concern any more as "the backs of those who create hurdles have been broken".

Security not a concern any more as 'the backs of those who create hurdles have been broken', says L-G Manoj Sinha

The L-G administration has called for the "involvement of students and educational institutions to make the meetings a grand success". Seminars on the G-20 in educational institutions across the UT are being held. Billboards on India hosting the G-20 meetings have been erected in Srinagar and Jammu.

The Ladakh administration also held a meeting on Tuesday to review preparedness for a G-20 meeting planned in Ladakh in April 2023. "The G-20 meeting is a great opportunity for Ladakh to showcase its cultural heritage, which in turn shall be beneficial for future branding of Ladakh," a spokesman said. Officials said India is expected to host over 200 meetings in over 50 cities ahead of the summit in Delhi.

Watch | What does the G-20 presidency mean for India
bit.ly/indiag20

'Four States occupy 82,751 hectares of Assam land'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Four neighbouring States are occupying a total of 82,751.85127 hectares of land belonging to Assam, show data presented in the Assembly.

To a question from AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam, Assam's Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora said Nagaland topped the list of encroachers by grabbing 59,490.21 hectares, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (16,144.00117 hectares), Mizoram (3,675.78 hectares) and Meghalaya (3,441.8601 hectares).

11 injured in vehicle pile-up due to dense fog in U.P.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Dense fog engulfed large swathes of North India reeling under intense cold as visibility reduced significantly, disrupting rail services and causing a vehicle pile-up in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

At least 11 people were injured in the pile-up involving several vehicles on the Lucknow-Gorakhpur National Highway, even as moderate fog cloaked Delhi where 18 trains were running late by an hour and half to five hours.

Operations at the Delhi airport remained normal. However, three flights were returned or diverted to the Delhi airport due to bad weather in Chandigarh, Varanasi and Lucknow on Tuesday night. Amid low temperatures, high moisture and still winds, a layer of dense to very dense fog persisted over Punjab, Haryana, northwest Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and parts of Uttarakhand, according to IMD.

New land rules bring J&K on a par with rest of India; old law was regressive: L-G

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Toughening the stand on newly introduced land rules that has ended lease holders' rights for extension in the Union Territory (UT), Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the land laws were "regressive" and "property worth ₹100 crore property was enjoyed at a paltry ₹5".

"No poor will be impacted by the amendments to the land laws. Rule of law outside has to be implemented here too. J&K's land laws were regressive and amendments were made. There were properties worth ₹100 crore being enjoyed for ₹5 as payment. Only such people are worried by the amendments," Mr. Sinha said in Jammu.

The Land Grants Rules, 2022 has paved the way to auction all commercial buildings on lease and land on lease in J&K. The Lieutenant-Governor said the fresh rules "have brought J&K at par with the rest of the country". As many as 55 of the 59 hotels at the tourist spot Gulmarg in the Valley are likely to be auctioned afresh as their leases have ended.

Pushing through: Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha addressing presspersons in Jammu on Wednesday. PTI

'Back to work'

Meanwhile, Mr. Sinha asked protesting Pandits and other minority members from Jammu to resume duties in Kashmir.

Hundreds of Pandit employees, who had opted for Kashmir for their postings under the special employment package for migrant Pandits, left the Valley in May this year after a spree of killings of Pandits and employees from the minority community by militants.

Listing the measures taken for safety and security of Pandits, Mr. Sinha said, "Safe postings to district headquarters were done. Those in tehsils and rural departments were posted closer to cities. Two or three Pandits were posted together. A district-level officer was appointed to address grievances," he said. A total of 1,700 additional accommodations would be provided to Pandits.

SC stands up for a retired sweeper's right to pension

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Order is in tune with CJI's statements that the SC exists to hear every little cry of the common man

The Supreme Court stood up for the little man against the power of the State by putting an end to "frivolous" rounds of litigation waged by the School Education Department of the Tamil Nadu government against a sweeper-cum-sanitary worker who wanted his pension after putting in 20 years of work for a starting wage of ₹150 a month.

A Bench led by Justice Dinesh Maheshwari backed the cause of K. Lakshmanan's right to pension and directed the department to cough up exemplary costs of ₹1 lakh for "dragging on" the litigation for years, even at one point filing the rare review petition in the Madras High Court, which ordered the State to pay him the pension. The costs have to be deposited in the welfare fund of the Supreme Court Employees Welfare Association.

The court further gave Mr. Lakshmanan liberty to "recover the amount of costs from the persons/officers responsible for protracting this litigation and sanctioning such frivolous petitions without sufficient cause and without any justification".

Protector of rights

The order is in tune with Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's recent statements that the Supreme Court exists to hear every little cry of despair of the common man. The court's role is inherently that of the protector of citizens' rights.

The Bench also noted that the State had moved the top court through its Principal Secretary after a delay of 156 days, excluding the COVID-19 period. A party has to appeal a High Court decision within a time frame of up to 90 days.

There is a calculated bid to delegitimise judiciary, says Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi

There is a calculated attempt to delegitimise the judiciary, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Wednesday. She also attacked the Narendra Modi government for refusing to discuss the India-China border issue in Parliament.

She made these remarks at the general body meeting of the CPP at Parliament's Central Hall.

In a scathing attack, Ms. Gandhi said the Modi government's refusal to a parliamentary debate showed "disrespect to democracy and poorly reflected the government's intentions".

"Ministers and even a high constitutional authority have been enlisted to make speeches attacking the judiciary on various grounds. It is quite clear that this is not an effort to provide reasonable suggestions for improvement. Rather, it is an effort to reduce the standing of the judiciary in the eyes of the public," she alleged.

But the focus of Ms. Gandhi's speech was the government's handling of the border issue with China. "The continuing incursions by China on our border are a matter of serious concern. The whole nation stands with our vigilant soldiers who repelled these attacks under difficult conditions. The government, however, stubbornly refuses to allow a discussion on the issue in Parliament. As a result, Parliament, political parties and the people remain ignorant of the true situation on the ground," she said.

Economic response

"What is the government's policy to deter China from future incursions? Given that we continue to have a severe trade deficit with China, importing far more than we export, why is there no economic response to China's military hostility? What is the government's diplomatic outreach to the global community," Ms. Gandhi asked.

On Wednesday, the Congress-led Opposition MPs stepped up their demand for a discussion on China by protesting in front of the Parliament House and later staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha.

Talking about the recent elections, Ms. Gandhi said the Congress had formed its government in Himachal Pradesh but termed the results in Gujarat and Delhi "unfortunate".

'Targeted relief given during the pandemic staved off recession'

Revenue buoyancy will be enough to take care of additional expenses of ₹3.25 lakh crore this financial year, says Nirmala Sitharaman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Path to growth: Nirmala Sitharaman says the country is on the safe course of revival. PTI

The country did not slip into an economic recession because of the targeted approach taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give relief to people during the COVID-19 pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

She was replying to a debate on two Appropriation Bills seeking House approval for additional funds to be used during this financial year. Both the Bills were returned by the Rajya Sabha after her reply.

Responding to former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who spearheaded the Opposition by initiating the debate on Monday, Ms. Sitharaman said the countries which went by the advice of "borrow and spend and even print money to reboot the economy" had to face recession. "Thankfully, the targeted way in which the Prime Minister decided to give relief during COVID-19 and address the concerns – that were given as inputs from various stakeholders – has kept us on the safe course of helping revival, and not getting into recession," she said.

She said both the IMF and the World Bank had said on several occasions that India was the brightest spot in the global economy and was an island of hope for global growth.

Food security

On questions about an additional expenditure of ₹3.25 lakh crore in 2022-23, she said the Centre had come up with the Supplementary Demand for Grants essentially to ensure food security and subsidy for fertilizers, which is critical for farmers.

On the revenues for this additional expenditure, she said, "In September itself, the Government of India had made it very clear that we are not changing our borrowing schedule." The Minister said the Centre would ensure that the revenue generated would be sufficient to take care of the addition, emphasising that there was enough buoyancy that gave her confidence.

On cutting corporate tax, Ms. Sitharaman recalled that in 1991, then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh cut it to 40% from 45%.

"Then in 1997, the then Finance Minister P. Chidambaram brought the corporate tax down to 35% from 40%, after abolishing the surcharge also. Then, from 2000, surcharges were back, raising the total corporate tax again to about 36-38% which continued for the next five years after that. But, then, it was Mr. Chidambaram again, who reduced the corporate tax to 30% in 2005, although along with the surcharge, the actual rate was about 33%. Were they also a bonanza to corporates," she asked.

Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill passed in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill on Wednesday, two days after the Lok Sabha cleared it.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the Bill would fulfil all the expectations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which India is a signatory to, for cooperation and repression of piracy in high seas.

Addressing the concerns raised by the Standing Committee on Transport and Shipping, the Centre has dropped the provision for trial in absentia through amendments brought in the Lok Sabha. The Bill also addresses the issue of death penalty "as an exceptional case". The quantum of punishments envisaged are in line with the gravity of offences.

Mr. Jaishankar, replying to a brief debate, said that between 2008 and 2011, there were 27 maritime incidents where 288 Indian nationals were involved. "Between 2014 and 2022, there were 19 piracy cases in which 155 Indian crew members were involved and the numbers show why the country needs this Bill so badly," he added.

"It will strengthen our maritime security, including the safety of our maritime trade routes and the well-being of Indian seafarers in international waters," Mr. Jaishankar said.

INBRIEF

Bihar CM lashes out at Centre for 'raising' COVID-19 scare

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took a dig at BJP-led Central government on Wednesday for raising an alarm over a COVID-19 spike at a time when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra was gaining momentum. "First of all it should be known why they [the ruling BJP at the Centre] had become laid-back over COVID-19 and why they have become vigilant when the Congress people are taking out Bharat Jodo Yatra which is gaining momentum now," Mr. Kumar asked. "Why do these people [the BJP] have an objection to the yatra and why do they themselves keep taking out processions?" he asked. He also lashed out at a NHRC team visiting Bihar in the wake of the Saran hooch tragedy, asking whether such teams had visited other States where similar tragedies had taken place.

RJD seeks apology from Goyal for comments on Bihar

The RJD, on Wednesday sought an apology from Union Minister Piyush Goyal for his alleged "demeaning" remarks against Bihar. In a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, party MP Manoj K. Jha said that Mr. Goyal's comments are "representative of the contemptuous and condescending attitude of the Government of India towards Bihar". On Tuesday, during Mr. Jha intervention in a debate on the Appropriation Bill, Mr. Goyal interjected and said "If they have their way, they will turn the country into Bihar." Objecting to the comments, Mr. Jha in a letter to Mr. Dhankhar said, that such a "demeaning" statement was not expected from a person of Mr. Goyal's rank. It is deeply problematic, he said, that the government is singling out one State and terming it a "failure".

No plan to revise age of consent, Centre informs Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government does not yet have a plan to revise the age of consent under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 despite appeals from the judiciary to lower it from the current 18 to 16.

In response to a question from CPI member Binoy Vishwam in the Rajya Sabha on whether the Centre was considering any proposal to lower the age of consent in order to prevent the criminalisation of consensual relationships between adolescents, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani replied, "does not arise."

"The Act clearly defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years. The POCSO Act provides punishment as per the gravity of offence. The Act was further amended in 2019 to introduce more stringent punishment including death penalty for committing sexual crimes on children, with a view to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes against children," she said.

Ms. Irani also said that the Majority Act, 1875 provided 18 years as the age for attainment of majority. She said that where an offence listed under the POCSO Act was committed by a child, Section 34 provided procedures for determining the age of the juvenile accused.

NGOs flouting FCRA rules will not be tolerated: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday said that certain non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were trying to "change the demography" of the country through foreign funding and this would not be allowed.

Replying to a short discussion in the Lok Sabha on the drug abuse crisis in the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said some NGOs and civil society organisations were working with the government to create awareness of the drug menace.

But NGOs who did not follow FCRA rules will not be tolerated. "We will not allow any foreign funds to destroy the country," Mr. Shah said.

Participating in a debate, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi had earlier said that the government was not allowing civil society organisations to work properly by

He said that the Modi government was committed to rooting out the drug menace from the country

subjecting them to investigation under the Foreign Contribution (Regulatory) Act. The government had cancelled the FCRA registration of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in October.

The Home Minister said that the Modi government was committed to rooting out the drug menace from the country. He added that drugs worth ₹97,000 crore were destroyed between 2014 and 2022, while the seizure between 2006 and 2013 was valued at ₹23,000 crore.

"We have mapped the drug network across the States. No matter how big the criminal is, in the next two years there will be a situation that they will be behind bars," he said. He said that the Modi government has zero tolerance policy towards money from the drug trade being used to fund terrorism.

The government has empowered the Border Security Force, SSB and Assam Rifles to register cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, (NDPS).

"Powers have been given to security forces, but some States have said that their powers have been taken away... If we do not give powers to our agencies, how will they be able to work? We must have faith in our security forces, those politicising the issue are supporting drug trafficking," Mr. Shah said.

He said that drugs network chart had been sent to the States after mapping the route of drugs and its network in 472 districts.

The government was also setting up six regional labs so that there was no delay in the testing of samples and criminals cannot escape.

Human Rights panel seeks report on evictions in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on Wednesday asked the district administration of Nagaon in central Assam to submit a report on the eviction of about 300 families who had allegedly occupied government land.

The deadline for the submission has been set as January 18, 2023.

The eviction drive around the birthplace of 15-16th century Vaishnav saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva in Batadrava began on December 19. The encroachers had built permanent houses and fish breeding farms on the occupied land, officials said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma justified the eviction drive and said a similar drive would soon take place in Goalpara district. "There is no point talking about such eviction exercises, which will continue until all the forest and government lands across the State are cleared," he said.

Office of the Electricity Department
Thrissur Corporation, Thrissur
Date : 20.12.2022
PDS : 2104/22
THRISSUR CORPORATION - ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
Re-e-Tender Notice
SBD for appointment of Project Management Agency for TCED
For more details please log on to www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Sd/-
Assistant Secretary

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines). E-Mail : stores.dis@tnpl.co.in
TNPL invites Tender for sale of following Waste Material from TNPL Unit - I on "as is where is" / One Time Sale basis.

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
2022026	Effluent Degraded Filter Cake	22.12.2022

Corrigendum if any will be issued in NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/5661/Tender/2022
TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Chandrabani, Dehra Dun-248 001 (Uttarakhand)
EPBAXL +91 -135-2640114 to 2640115,2646100, FAX:2640117
E-MAIL: registrar@wii.gov.in, Web Site : www.wii.gov.in
Advertisement No. WII/ADM/2022/49
Appointment on deputation of IFS officers for the post of Scientist-D, E and Scientist F
Applications are invited from IFS officers for filling up the posts of the level of Scientist – D, E & F in the Pay Matrix Level 12, 13 & 13-A respectively for appointment on deputation basis in Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
The detailed advertisement, terms and conditions can be seen on Institute's website: www.wii.gov.in. The last date of receipt of application is 28.02.2023.
The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.
Registrar
Wildlife Institute of India

cmpdi A Mini Ratna Company
सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) (कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड की एक अनुषंगी कंपनी)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834 031, Jharkhand, INDIA
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, www.cmpdi.co.in), CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurment Portal https://eprocure.gov.in In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in".

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259.
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in, E-mail: mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of Anti TB Drugs by TNMSC Ltd., Chennai - 600 008, from the Manufacturers or direct importer or Loan Licensees having Valid Loan License having three years Market Standing.

Tender Reference No.	028 / M(P) / TB-DRUG / TNMSC/2022, Dated.26.12.2022
Tender Document Sale Period	26.12.2022 to 09.01.2023
Last Date and Time for receipt of tender	10.01.2023 upto 11.00 AM
Date and time of opening	10.01.2023 at 11.30 AM

The tender document can be downloaded from the websites of www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in on free of cost.
DIPR/ 5657 /TENDER/2022
Manager (Purchase)
" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம் "

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal)
BESCOM invites tender through e-procurement for the following enquiry Nos:

Enquiry No.	Zone	Particulars
BESCOM/ GM(M&C)/106 /EM2ES/BRAZ /2022-23	BRAZ	BESCOM invites tender for "Providing, Releasing, fixing, wiring and replacement of Existing Electromechanical meters by DLMS Compliant LT AC Single phase 2 wire 5-30A and LT AC Three phase 4 Wire 5-30A Electrostatic meters of class-1.0 accuracy on total turnkey basis.
BESCOM/ GM(M&C)/107/ EM2ES/CTZ /2022-23	CTZ	

The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal from the tendering Website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.12.2022. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk at 080-25501216, 080-25501227.
For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/-
The General Manager (Ele)
Meter & Commercial,

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines).
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 005699	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit - I and Unit - II	04.01.2023
222313 005691	Procurement of Non Ferric Alum for Unit - I	05.01.2023
222333 000474	Procurement of White Clay	30.12.2022
222333 000475	Procurement of Cement Grade Lime Stone - 83% CaCo3	06.01.2023
222313 005632	Procurement of PM#3 HW Refiner Segment Set (Stator & Rotor)	10.01.2023
222323 003557	Supply and Erection of 2 No's of 20m³ MSRL Bulk Acid Storage tanks for WTP at TNPL Unit - II	06.01.2023
E-Mail	222313005699 & 5691 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 222333000474 & 0475 - purchase.lsfm@tnpl.co.in 222313005632 - purchase.imp@tnpl.co.in 222323003557 - pmd4@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/5664/Tender/2022
TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation
ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1993/03/2022 33190 Dated :- 20.12.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement - 2nd
Name of the Work : Construction of Proposed (New) SFRC/RCC Pre-cast Compound wall at MSME Park, Dombasara, Rayagada.
Estimated Cost : Rs.386.04 Lakhs (apprx.).
Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC/EST/E-126 / 2022-23	16.00 Hours of 27.12.2022	17.00 Hours of 12.01.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal. www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in.
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-4206
OIPR-14003/11/0232/2223

INBRIEF

907 naxal sympathisers surrender in Odisha

As many as 907 sympathisers, including 467 active militias of the CPI(Maoist), have surrendered before the Odisha police and the Border Security Force in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district, once a hotbed of left wing extremists in the State. These individuals belonged to villages which used to be the stronghold of the CPI(Maoist) where security forces were finding it difficult to venture into. "All these villages are located on the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh boundary. These Maoist supporters used to assist extremists in violent activities and were involved in the killing of security forces and civilians," Nitesh Wadhwani, Superintendent of Police, Malkangiri, said.

NCW asks SpiceJet to take down tweet on its cabin crew

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh to take down a post on social media that refers to the airline's cabin crew as "red-hot girls". Meanwhile, the airline has asserted that the reference was part of its tagline used often for "product promotions". On December 19, SpiceJet, on its Twitter timeline, posted a picture of its women cabin crew posing with Bollywood actor Dharmendra along with the caption "Garam Dharam with our red-hot girls". A passenger complained about the "sexist remark" that he said was antithetical to "Indian culture" and tagged the NCW.

U.P. targets to make Ganga clean before 'Kumbh 2025'

Before the commencement of 'Prayagraj Kumbh 2025', the Uttar Pradesh government has vowed to make the Ganga clean through the 'Namami Gange' mission. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday gave guidelines for it while reviewing the implementation of the 'Namami Gange' project. Mr. Adityanath directed officials to expedite the process of installation of sewage treatment plants (STPs) to save the rivers from sewage, dirt and toxic water, and called for more efforts for urban solid waste management in order to ensure uninterrupted and clean flow of all the rivers, including the Ganga.

Bombay HC extends stay on bail granted to NCP leader

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted extension on the stay of former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh's bail to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till December 27. A Single Bench of Justice M.S. Karnik granted time to the CBI to challenge Mr. Deshmukh's bail order in the Supreme Court. Though the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader was granted bail by the High Court on December 12, the same Bench had stayed it for 10 days. Mr. Deshmukh, 73, is currently lodged at the Arthur Road Jail and was arrested by the CBI in 2021 in a corruption case involving ₹100 crore. He was granted bail by the Bombay High Court on medical grounds.

'Only 30% reserved vacancies at IITs, Central universities filled in a year'

Of the 1,439 vacancies identified in the year to September 2022, only 449 were filled from the categories, show Education Ministry data; 12 Central universities conducted almost no recruitment during the mission-mode hiring drive

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Despite a year-long mission-mode recruitment drive to hire faculty for reserved category positions at the elite Indian Institutes of Technology and Central universities, just over 30% of identified vacancies were filled, the Education Ministry told Parliament this week.

In the year to September 5, 2022, 23 IITs and 45 Central universities across the country were directed to conduct the drive to fill vacancies in teaching positions reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

During this period, 1,439 vacancies were identified, against which just 449 recruitments were made.

Of the 45 Central universities, 33 had identified a total of 1,097 vacancies in these categories, of which just 212 were filled.

Even among these 33 universities, the data revealed that 18 of them had recruited no SC, ST or OBC teaching faculty at all, despite having identified vacancies.

Top universities too

Among these 18 Central universities, Jawaharlal Nehru University had identified 75 vacancies; Banaras Hindu University 114; and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University seven. However, none of these vacancies were filled.

Twelve of the Central universities conducted almost no recruitment during this drive, saying they had no backlog and could not identify any vacancies in these categories.

As of September this year, the data presented in Parliament showed that Central universities had a combined backlog of over 920 positions in the SC/ST/OBC categories for teaching faculty.

Low recruitment

Of the 23 IITs, only 10 were able to identify 342 vacancies in these categories for positions of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor.

A total of 237 positions in these categories were filled at 19 IITs. An analysis of the raw data by the Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (APPSC) of the IIT, Bombay showed that 13 IITs were unable to identify vacancies to be filled in this recruitment drive because they follow a "flexible cadre structure for faculty positions".

However, despite this, except for three (the IITs in Hyderabad, Bhilai and Bhubaneswar), the others did recruit a small number of SC/ST/OBC faculty in this time. The analysis further showed that 358 vacancies remained at 14 IITs

Of the recruitments done in this time period, the APPSC found that no ST candidates were recruited at the IITs in Kharagpur, Roorkee, Tirupati, Goa and Dharwad and the IIT ISM Dhanbad.

Further, no SC candidate was recruited in the IIT Roorkee.

It was found that most IITs did not recruit SC/ST/OBC candidates at the Professor and Associate Professor levels.

While presenting the data in the Lok Sabha, in response to a question from S. Venkatesan of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi said, "Filling up of vacancies, including backlog vacancies, is a continuous process."

Unfilled vacancies

Only 18% of the ST vacancies identified during the mission mode recruitment drive across IITs and Central Universities were filled in the one year period after September 5, 2021

Type	Backlog vacancies*	Backlog vacancies filled#	% of vacancies filled
SC	522	170	32.6
ST	317	57	18.0
OBC	564	222	39.4
All	**1,439^**	**449^**	**31.2**

*As on Sept. 5, 2021 | # Between Sept. 5, 2021 and Sept. 5, 2022

^Community split was not provided for some institutions

ED withholds production warrant for Mondal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday assured the Delhi High Court that it will withhold till January 9 the execution of a warrant to produce Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal before a local court here in connection with a money laundering case. Mr. Mondal is currently lodged in an Asansol jail in a cattle smuggling case in West Bengal.

A Delhi court on Monday issued a production warrant against Mr. Mondal after the ED approached the court seeking that the Birbhum district president of the Trinamool Congress be summoned to Delhi for questioning.

He was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on August 11 and has remained behind bars since. The ED is looking into the money laundering aspect of the alleged scam.

Valley dons *pheran* to greet 40-day winter spell

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

In a first, the beginning of the 40-day harshest spell of winter, locally called *Chillai Kalan*, was celebrated as *Pheran* Day in the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday, to popularise the loose-and-long woollen gown worn to fight the biting cold as the minimum temperature hovers below zero degrees Celsius here.

Scores of youth wearing *pherans* cat-walked near the Ghanta Ghar in Srinagar's main commercial centre, Lal Chowk, "to promote wearing of *pherans*". "The event is an attempt to showcase our culture. We wanted to convey that the *pheran* is our identity," one of the organisers said.

A special ramp show, in which scores of youth, including women, participated, was organised at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre here by the Army.

On the day, the minimum temperature in Srinagar recorded minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Bengal village basks in the glory of an ancient metalcraft

Lalbazar, on the boundary with Jharkhand, is becoming a hub for *dokra* metalcraft, thanks to the efforts of an artist from Kolkata

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

Nestled in the forests with a population less than 100, Lalbazar was a nondescript village until not too long ago. Today, it is not only an art hub but also moving towards becoming a centre for *dokra*, a metalcraft popular in Bengal, all thanks to a Kolkata artist who made the place his second home four years ago.

"Two places are famous in West Bengal for *dokra* work – Bikna in Bankura and Dariyapur in Bardhaman. But if you notice carefully, the quality of their products is deteriorating. We are trying to keep things original," said Mrinal Mandal, an alumnus of the Government Arts College who chanced upon Lalbazar, sitting on the boundary with Jharkhand, in 2018, while trying to document folk art. He is, at the moment, curating a *dokra* workshop in the village with the help of Kolkata's Chalchitra Academy.

Dokra figurines on display.

For the workshop, which began 45 days ago and in which 15 people from Lalbazar (from its total population 80) and five from surrounding villages are participating. Mr. Mandal has brought in six artisans from Bikna, including two master craftsmen – Amar Karmakar and Mahadeb Karmakar.

Age-old tradition

"*Dokra* is an ancient tradition; its documented history is about 5,000 years old. Making *dokra* art is a difficult process. Each figurine takes about a month to make. There are many processes involved, for which seven or eight varieties of clay are required, apart from other raw material. What works in our favour is that the raw materials, including the metal, are easily available here [in Lalbazar]," he said.

"The workshop will continue all of next year and production too will continue. The craftsmen have already created about 300 pieces of art so far, which have gone to shops in Kolkata and also abroad. Once the villagers pick up the art, they will substantially add to their income," Mr. Mandal said.

"I am quite enjoying the workshop. I hope to master the skill some day and make money selling *dokra* work," said Deep Mallick, a student of Class 9.

"My greatest satisfaction is that at Khwaabgram, we are practising this ancient craft in its original form, without any painting or polishing. We are reviving the original tribal motifs," Mr. Mandal added.

Bill to amend ST list of Chhattisgarh passed in Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bill will include Binjhia community and synonyms for several other tribes on the State's ST list

Amid a face-off between Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda and Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 to include the Binjhia community and synonyms for several other tribes on the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of Chhattisgarh.

During the discussion, where over 25 MPs spoke, all supporting the inclusion, Mr. Chowdhury attacked the government over welfare measures for the country's tribal populations, and also made a case for the inclusion of the Kurmi community on the ST list. The Congress leader went on to call for a comprehensive Bill to settle the issues of all such communities that have been demanding ST status.

In his reply to the discussion, Mr. Munda attacked the Congress, alleging that the party had never cared about the welfare of tribal communities, saying that the country had to wait for Atal Bihari Vajpayee to become Prime Minister before getting a Ministry for Tribal Affairs.

"Mr. Chowdhury spoke of the Kurmi community and we are cognisant of their demands and are working towards it as per procedure," the Minister said. Responding to the demands from MPs on the inclusion of more communities, he added, "Tribal communities are defined not by their caste but by their characteristic traits, traits that were set out by the Lokur Committee in 1965."

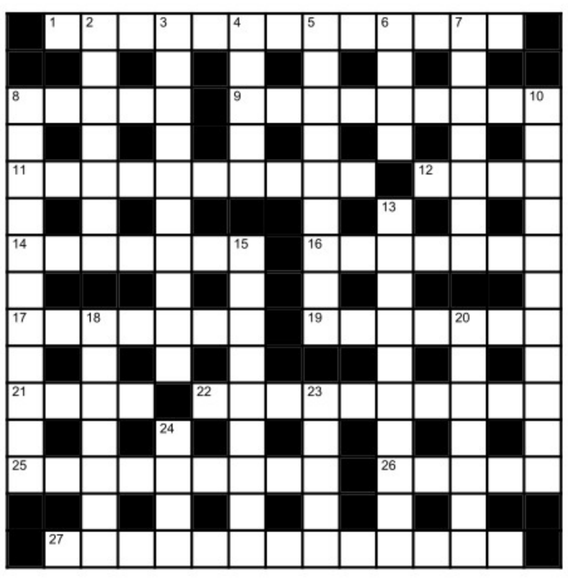
Explainer
The process of inclusion or exclusion from the Scheduled Tribes list
» **bit.ly/listst**

TH CROSSWORD + 13743

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Look out and see woman with hot pants exercising outside club (5,4,4)
8 Examine rifle in case of patricide (5)
9 Holding a gardening tool, gathers edible rootstocks (9)
11 First love meeting to have one drink (10)
12 Knock for six, wielding long handle (4)
14 Old boy is controlling government forces (7)
16 Keen about going around wide and smooth track beside canal (7)
17 Interrupt popular model getting abusive (7)
19 Continues to conduct primarily hilarious comic routines (7)
21 Unpleasant and fussy president removed (4)
22 Rogue sadhu beaten up in prison (10)
25 Restricts crackers, chips and pizza finally (9)
26 Runs into bar for spirit (5)
27 Turned randy and vile after consuming wine by mistake (13)

Down

2 Face of officer in Calais, terribly unfriendly (7)
3 Reprimanding extremely horrible group in bar right away (7,3)
4 Await sonography to check about openings in body part (5)
5 Transported cases filled with fresh mushrooms (9)
6 Small slam in bridge (4)
7 Carnal literature arousing reaction endlessly (7)
8 Injured hip, shin and foot in extremely close competition (5,6)
10 What stagehands do to describe background (3,3,5)
13 Hag overwhelmed by lumps around hip (8,2)
15 Guess clue incorrectly in rush (9)
18 Swindled money to acquire a field (5,2)
20 Key spies captured by ruthless leader of Eritrea killed (7)
23 Readjust prop, holding base (5)
24 Bland starter of lamb in gloomy retreat (4)

SUDOKU

2	3		7				4	
		4				9		
	6	1	8					2
1				7				
	9	6	3		1	4	2	
				4				9
9					2	6	8	
		7				2		
	8				7		5	3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5656 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

B	I	O	S	C	O	P	E		T	U	R	B	O	T
E		R		H		U		I		N		E		H
C	O	N	T	A	C	T		M	E	D	D	L	E	R
O		A		M		O		P		U		G		A
M	E	T	R	E		N	U	R	S	E	R	I	E	S
E		E		L		E		O				A		H
			P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
E		S		O		S		I		H		S		S
P	U	T	O	N	T	H	E	S	P	O	T			
I		O				I		A		D		B		T
G	L	O	B	E	T	R	O	T		O	B	E	A	H
R		D		R		T		I		L		D		R
A	V	O	C	A	D	O		O	K	I	N	A	W	A
P		U		S		N		N		T		U		C
H	O	T	T	E	R		A	S	S	E	M	B	L	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	6	3	2	1	4	7	8
2	8	4	6	7	5	1	3	9
7	3	1	4	8	9	2	6	5
8	5	2	9	3	4	7	1	6
4	7	9	1	6	8	3	5	2
6	1	3	2	5	7	9	8	4
1	2	5	8	9	3	6	4	7
3	6	7	5	4	2	8	9	1
9	4	8	7	1	6	5	2	3

FAITH

The essence of penance

Penance is good for our spiritual well being, said Malayaman, in a discourse. Thayumanavar said that our five senses are like hunters, dominating our lives, and keeping us from thinking beyond this world. Controlling the sense organs, living in forests and hills, exposing oneself to the elements and eating dry leaves are components of penance, he says.

Asiriya Maalai says that bathing in jungle streams, wearing garments made of tree bark, performing yagas, living in forests and hills, bringing the five senses under control – these constitute penance. Pattinathar's definition of penance is similar to this. Thirumurugattruppadai shows us the importance of penance and the traits of those who do penance. Nalladanar, in his Thirikadugam, says that having a pure heart, always speaking the truth, not wanting to harm anyone through thoughts, words or deeds – these are the characteristics of those involved in penance. Living as one pleases, and yielding to temptations, is not penance. Think of a shining nail which sits tightly in its slot in the yoke of a bullock cart. Our thoughts must have the same focus as the unmoving nail in the yoke, says poet Mundrurai Araiyanar.

Poet Kari Asan says that not harming others, forgetting one's own problems, keeping one's temper in check, giving up desires – if a man has these qualities, then his penance will be successful. Kanimedhaiyar authored a work called Eladi, in which he says being unattached to family life is penance. Bearing one's misfortune uncomplainingly, and abstaining from harming others – these two qualities are the very essence of penance, says Thiruvalluvar.

BERLIN

Climate activists chop off the top of a Christmas tree in Germany

AP

German activists chopped off the top of a Christmas tree in Berlin on Wednesday, their latest protest pushing for greater action to combat the climate crisis. Two women from the campaign group "Last Generation" used a mechanical platform to ascend to the top of the 15-metre tree and sawed off a two-metre section. AFP

KUALA KRAI

Five dead, more than 70,000 evacuated in Malaysia floods

REUTERS

At least five persons were killed and more than 70,000 rushed to evacuation centres in Malaysia after monsoon-triggered floods inundated the country's north. The victims are three sisters who were electrocuted while wading through the floodwaters, a 15-month-old boy and a two-year-old girl. AFP

LONDON

Thousands of U.K. ambulance staff strike as public urged to avoid risks

REUTERS

Ambulance workers in England and Wales walked out over pay on Wednesday, a day after nurses went on strike, as the government advised the public to avoid taking risks. The government said the strike would result in fewer ambulances on the road, with only the life-threatening cases such as heart attacks prioritised. REUTERS

KATHMANDU

Nepal court orders release of serial killer Charles Sobhraj

AFP

Nepal's Supreme Court ordered the release of notorious French serial killer Charles Sobhraj, a Frenchman of Indian and Vietnamese parentage who has been in jail since 2003 on murder charges. The court verdict also asked the authority concerned to arrange for the 78-year-old Sobhraj to return to his country within 15 days. PTI

U.S. to send precision bombs and Patriot missiles to Ukraine

Zelensky is set to visit White House; the Patriot will be the most advanced surface-to-air missile system the West has provided to Ukraine

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Replenished arsenal: The aid signals an expansion by the U.S. in the kinds of advanced weaponry it will send to Ukraine. AP

The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it will provide $1.85 billion in military aid to Ukraine, rolling out funding for a Patriot missile battery as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is arriving in Washington for his first known trip out of his country since Russia invaded in February.

The White House announcement came just hours before Mr. Zelensky was expected to arrive. The package includes $1 billion in weapons and equipment from Pentagon stocks, including the Patriot battery for the first time, and $850 million in funding through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI).

Part of the USAI will be used to fund a satellite communications system, which likely will include the crucial SpaceX Starlink satellite network system owned by Elon Musk.

The Patriot will be the most advanced surface-to-air missile system the West has provided to Ukraine to help repel Russian aerial attacks.

The Pentagon will send an undisclosed number of Joint Direct Attack Munitions kits, or JDAMs, to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin warned that increasing the supply of U.S. arms to Ukraine would aggravate the devastating 10-month war ignited by Russia's invasion and "does not bode well" for the neighbouring country, where President Vladimir Putin vowed Russia would achieve its goals.

China limits its definition of COVID-19 death count

Associated Press
TAIPEI

China only counts deaths from pneumonia or respiratory failure in its official COVID-19 death toll, a Chinese health official said, in a narrow definition that limits the number of deaths reported.

Deaths that occur in patients with pre-existing illnesses are not counted as COVID-19 deaths, said Wang Guiqiang, the head of infectious disease at Peking University's No. 1 Hospital.

China has always been conservative in how it counts illnesses, whether from the flu or COVID-19. In most countries, including the U.S., guidelines stipulate that any death where COVID-19 is a factor or contributor is counted as a COVID-19-related death.

On Wednesday, China reported no new COVID-19 deaths and in fact subtracted one death from the overall toll, lowering it to 5,241, according to a daily tally.

'Hugs, screams and cries': Afghan women anguished at university ban

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Women university students across Afghanistan were in disbelief on Wednesday, barred by the Taliban from studying and condemned to a life of feeling "like caged birds".

In Kabul, home to the country's largest universities, students gathered outside campuses dressed in the black cloaks and tight headscarves imposed by the Taliban since they took control last year.

"We all felt like caged birds, we hugged each other, screamed, and cried 'why is this happening to us'?" Ms. Amini, a 23-year-old nursing student in Kunduz, told AFP.

Faculties across the country were already closed for the winter break, but students had been able to access campuses for exams or to study in libraries.

Large void: Male students attend a class bifurcated by a curtain separating men and women at a university in Kandahar. AFP

In Kandahar, the cradle and spiritual heart of the Taliban movement, male students were able to sit for exams in classrooms still segregated with screens, which until the day before made it possible for women to study.

Now, the university gates shut them out.

"It really expresses (the Taliban's) illiteracy and poor knowledge of Islam and human rights," said a young male law student in Kabul

In the eastern city of Jalalabad, some male students walked out of their exams in protest against the decision.

"We have no power to do anything and there is no one to listen to us," said one 29-year-old, who is doing a masters in Pashto literature in Kabul.

Deep in anguish, she still clung to the hope that the Taliban would row back on the announcement after the winter break.

"We will wait for the next three months to see if they change their order. They might change their policies and restart the universities."

If they do not, she called on men to stop attending classes in protest. "They too must stay at home until the girls are allowed to go back," she pleaded.

Sri Lanka is awaiting assurances from India, China, says Central Bank Governor

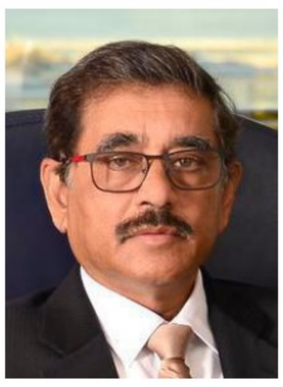
Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is waiting for financing assurances from its bilateral creditors, including India and China, to tap support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to Central Bank Governor P. Nandalal Weerasinghe.

In September, the IMF reached a staff level agreement with Sri Lanka for a $2.9 billion package to help the island nation facing its worst economic crisis in decades. The development came months after Sri Lanka floated the rupee, opted for a preemptive default on its external debt, and increased interest rates sharply to tighten monetary policy.

However, Sri Lanka must now obtain adequate financing assurances from its creditors, for the IMF Board to approve the promised Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Colombo is desperate for the $2.9 billion not because it is a big amount – it can barely meet two months' worth of imports – but mainly to use the IMF package to qualify for more credit internationally.

Over the past few months, Sri Lanka has been in talks with China, Japan, and India – its three major bilateral creditors – to restructure the billions of dollars owed to them. "We have shared all the information possible with our bilateral creditors, on



P. Nandalal Weerasinghe

an open, comparable, and transparent basis. Now they will have to look at it, make their decisions internally and come back to us...we hope they will do that soon," he told *The Hindu* in an interview at his office on Tuesday. From the time the Sri Lankan government entered the provisional agreement with the IMF, India has underscored the need for "creditor equitability and transparency", implying Colombo must not give any creditor preferential treatment while restructuring their loans.

Delayed talks

Sri Lanka aimed to secure IMF relief before the end of this year, but with bilateral negotiations dragging, it failed to. Talks with China got a "little delayed", Governor Weerasinghe observed, citing "internal issues" such as the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s national congress held in October, and "COVID-19 restrictions" in China.

But the delay in discussions with China "is not the only reason" for Sri Lanka's inability to secure the IMF package this year, in his view. Japan, and the Paris Club of which it is a member, "know this business" [of debt restructure] as they have "been doing it for many years", he said. "Because of that, they are more advanced in their engagement. They have done the analysis and shared it with non-Paris Club members like India and China," Mr. Weerasinghe said, adding: "Now, it is up to them." After the creditors provide financing assurances, it would likely take the IMF Board four to six weeks to approve the package, he said.

In addition to bilateral loans, the island nation has over the years borrowed heavily from private creditors, the country's largest external credit source, holding nearly $13 billion of its outstanding debt, apart from multilateral agencies.

The focus, however, is on bilateral creditors whose role is key for Sri Lanka to obtain crucial IMF support. Multilateral loans, taken on low-interest and over a long term, will not be restructured, and the actual negotiation with commercial creditors will commence only after the IMF programme kicks in, according to the Governor.

With Colombo's decision to default on its $51-billion foreign debt – the Governor maintained it was a "debt standstill" as against a hard default – its subsequent move limiting imports to essentials, the nearly $4 billion Indian assistance and some repurposed funds, Sri Lanka waded through the last few months. "We can manage without bridge financing now," Mr. Weerasinghe said. "With our export proceeds, worker remittances, and some support from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, we can manage," he said.

Notable contraction

The Central Bank recently said there was a "notable contraction" in merchandise trade deficit in October 2022, compared to the previous year, even as Sri Lanka's imports continue to exceed exports by millions of dollars. "Exports will probably be coming down because global demand is also going down... and obviously that will impact imports as well."

While Sri Lankan economists contend that the economy is still on a precarious path, the senior official sought to project a more hopeful picture, pitching earnings from tourism and remittances as "additional benefits". Official data showed earnings from tourism crossed over $1 billion from January to October 2022, while workers' remittances went up to $3 billion during the period.

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम अस्पताल, एजुकोंन, कोल्लम, केरल 691505
(श्रम एव राजगार मत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION HOSPITAL,
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
EZHUKONE, KOLLAM, KERALA - 691505
दूरभाष/Phone: 0474 – 2522454, 2529200 ईमेल/Email: ms-ezhukone.ke@esic.nic.in
वेब साइट/Website:www.esic.gov.in
No. 545/A/11/11/Gr. A&B/CHE/10/Adm Date: 19.12.2022
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION - WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
The Medical Superintendent, ESIC Hospital Ezhukone invites application for the post of medical officers on contract basis for Senior Residents, Full Time/ Part Time Specialists in different specialties and Ayurveda Physician.
Date of Walk-in-interview- 04.01.2023 - 10:00 AM
at ESIC Hospital Ezhukone.
For details, please refer our website: **www.esic.gov.in/recruitments**
Sd/- Medical Superintendent

ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Tumkur-572101.
No: EE/PRED/TmK/ TND No-39/JE/2022-23 Dated: 15.12.2022
E-Procurement Tender Notice Two Cover System
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 39/2022-23
Dated: 15.12.2022
The Short Term Tender is inviting through e-procurement on behalf of government of Karnataka by the Executive Engineer P.R.E.D. Tumkur, Under the head of account 5054-Chiefe Minister Specil Grant and 3054-Lum sum Scheme in gubbi Taluk 2022-23 as per KTTP Act 2000 The Tender Documents can be obtained from the e-procurement Web Site and submitt the details on or before Dated: **02.01.2023** upto 5.00pm. Further details can be obtained through website at http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Tumkur
DIPR/TUM/786/MCA/2022-23

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Uppar Bhadra Project, Div. No.5, Chitradurga.
Ph/Fax: 08194-230102, E-Mail: eeubp.d5cta@gmail.com
No.EE/UBP/VJNL/DIV-05/CTA/Tender/2022-23/1336
Date:19.12.2022
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)
Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, VJNL, Bangalore, from eligible contractor for the 54C.C.Road Works (10 No of works are reserved for SC Category and 5 No of works are reserved for ST Category) in Chitradurga Assembly Constituency under 4701-Capital Head. Amount put to tender ranges from Rs.6.96 lakhs to Rs. 119.83 lakhs.The contractors shall submit the tenders inSingle/Two cover system.
1) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: 23.12.2022 up to 17:30 PM. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting (for works costing more than Rs.100.00 Lakhs): 26.12.2022 at 11:00 AM,Venue: Chief Engineer's office, VJNL, UBP Zone, Chitradurga. 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: 27.12.2022 up to 16:00 PM. 4) Date & Time for Opening of Tenders for Single Cover Tenders: 28.12.2022, 16:30 PM onwards. 5) Date & Time of Technical Bidopening for two cover tenders: 28.12.2022, 16:30 PM onwards. 6) Date & Time of Financial Bidopening for two cover tenders: "After Approval of technical bid".
For more details please contact 08194-230102 during office hours. Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum /addendum (if any) issued online in the entire tender process at website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
RO No. 785: DIPR/CTA/MCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Government of Karnataka
Deputy Commissioner office,
(District Urban Development Cell) Haveri Dist,
Haveri-581110 Telephone No : 08375-249097
e-mail : dc_haveri@yahoo.co.in
ನಂ:ಮುಸ (04)/ನಹ–3ಉಮೊ/ವಹಿ–63/I/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–12–2022
E-Procurement Tender Notification
Inviting Item wise two cover tender is called for the mentioned Indent No DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 143769 for TMC Savanur Amount Put To Tender Rs. **69.79** (Excluding GST) Lakh under 2016-17 Nagarothana Phase 3 Savings works. As per Karnataka Transperency Procurement Port Act 2000 and Modification Act 2021. All the terms and conditions As per (KW-3) pertaining to this tender shall be viewed in the Website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for further clarifications please contact District Urbon Development Cell Haveri.
DIPR/HVR/MCA/444/2022-23 **Sd/- Project Director, DUDC, Haveri**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No.:KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12885/CALL-4 Date:20.12.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal only) (Two Cover System)
Bids are invited through GOK e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from qualified agencies for **"Replacing of existing old lift with a new Rack and Pinion lift of 1000kgs capacity along with Design, Manufacturing, Transportation, Storing, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and handing over of one No. of lift including one year free maintenance at Unit #1 Secondary Crusher House(SCH), BTPS".** Last date and time for submission of bids: **20.01.2023 upto 17:00 hrs**. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CAM-1)**, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583 152. Ballari dist. Mob: 9448290572.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **Mr. N. Ramesh,** son of late M. Nagappa, residing at No. 21 B, 3rd Main, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011, he having acquired title to the same under a Sale Deed dated 12.04.2013 registered as Document No. MDP-1-00197-2013-14 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Mahadevapura, Bangalore.
All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Residential **Apartment No.16074,** having **PID No. 63/P-16074** situated on Level 7 of Block 16 **'Park Slope'** in **"PRESTIGE SHANTINIKETAN"** measuring **2292 sq.ft** of Super built up area, with **One covered Car parking** space **No. 827** in the Basement level and inclusive of proportionate share in common areas along with **797 sq.ft** undivided share in the property bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Katha No. 13/288, Sy Nos. 130(P), 129/2, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/1, 74/2, 77/1A, 77/2A, 77/1B, 77/2B and 78 totally measuring 66 acres 11 guntas in Hoodi and Sadaramangala, Whitefield Sub-Division, Bengaluru and the apartment bounded on:
On the East by : Apartment No. 16073 in Level-7 in Block 16- 'Park Slope' in "PRESTIGE SHANTINIKETAN"
On the West by : Apartment No. 16075 in Level-7 in Block 16- 'Park Slope' in "PRESTIGE SHANTINIKETAN"
On the North by : Entrance and Lobby in Level-7 in Block 16- 'Park Slope' in "PRESTIGE SHANTINIKETAN"
On the South by : Open towards Open Space in Block 16- 'Park Slope' in "PRESTIGE SHANTINIKETAN"
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto, Vir Anthony Britto, Advocates
"Daisville" 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 22/12/2022

INBRIEF

IndiGrid, G R Infra ally for power transmission projects

India Grid Trust and G R Infraprojects joined hands to bid for identified power transmission projects worth ₹5,000 crore. An agreement has been signed to jointly bid for identified tariff based competitive bidding transmission projects aggregating to about ₹5,000 crore, IndiGrid said. The Power Ministry has recently unveiled a plan for investment of ₹2,50,000 crore in building transmission infrastructure. PTI

ADNOC arm , AG&P sign deal for India LNG terminal

The maritime logistics arm of state oil firm Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Singapore-based Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific (AG&P) have signed a charter agreement to use a liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier as a floating storage unit in India. The LNG carrier is owned by ADNOC Logistics & Services. The pact is valid for 11 years with the option of a four-year extension, and is the third agreement signed between the two companies for a floating storage unit lease in India and the Philippines. REUTERS

Torrent is highest bidder for Reliance Capital at ₹8,640 cr.

Torrent Group on Wednesday emerged as the highest bidder for debt-ridden Reliance Capital in the auction conducted as part of its resolution process. Ahmedabad-based Torrent Group submitted a bid of ₹8,640 crore for acquiring the NBFC firm set up by the Anil Ambani Group, sources said. Hinduja Group was the second highest bidder, they said, adding Oaktree did not participate in the auction. PTI

Pause could prove costly, said Das; growth fragile, argued MPC's Varma

Economic growth not robust enough to withstand excessive monetary tightening, held Varma in voting against the 35 basis points repo rate increase at the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee's December meeting, the minutes show

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Contested decision
MPC minutes show while majority was focussed on inflation, the lone opponent to a rate increase flagged growth's fragility

- Given uncertain outlook, MPC may have to play catch-up to ward-off accentuated inflationary pressures: Das
- At 6.25%, repo rate very likely overshoots level needed to achieve price stability, poses an unwarranted risk to growth: Varma
- Varma cites lag of 3-4 quarters for policy to impact real economy

The Reserve Bank of India could ill afford to opt for a "premature pause in monetary policy action" as it would prove costly at a time when there was 'stickiness in core inflation', Governor Shaktikanta Das stressed at the Monetary Policy Committee's meeting earlier this month, the minutes show. On the other hand, fellow MPC member Jayanth Varma, who opposed raising interest rates yet again, asserted that "economic growth is now extremely fragile and definitely not robust enough to withstand excessive monetary tightening".

"A premature pause in monetary policy action would be a costly policy error at this juncture," Mr. Das had said in voting to raise the repo rate, the minutes released on Wednesday show. "Given the uncertain outlook, it may engender a situation where we may find ourselves striving to do a catch-up through stronger policy actions in the subsequent meetings to ward-off accentuated inflationary pressures," he added.

Arguing that the balance of risks had shifted decisively away from inflation to growth both globally and domestically, Mr. Varma, however, said, "I believe that the 35 basis point rate hike... is not warranted in this context of reduced inflationary pressures and heightened growth concerns".

Also, opposing the policy stance, he contended that given monetary policy impacts with a lag', front loading monetary policy action posed an unwarranted risk to growth.

"It may take 3-4 quarters for the policy rate to be transmitted to the real economy," Mr. Varma said, adding the MPC had raised the repo rate by 225 basis points in about eight months. "I believe that 6.25% itself very likely overshoots the repo rate needed to achieve price stability, and poses an unwarranted risk to economic growth," he added.

Private cryptos can hasten next financial crisis, says Das

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das warned that allowing private cryptocurrencies to grow can precipitate the next financial crisis.

Speaking at an event, Mr. Das also said the government and the central bank have been working in a coordinated manner to tame inflation and the Centre is 'equally serious' about curbing price rise.

On private cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Mr. Das reiterated the RBI's demand for a complete ban, saying such instruments do not have any underlying value and are speculative.

"It's a 100% speculative activity, and I would still hold the view that it should be prohibited," he said.

"If you try to regulate it and allow it to grow, please mark my words, the next financial crisis will come from private cryptocurrencies," Mr. Das added.

"Cryptocurrencies have huge inherent risks from macroeconomic and financial stability (perspective) and we have been pointing it out," he said.

Mr. Das added that private cryptocurrencies' valuation has shrunk from $190 billion to $140 billion.

Musk says he'll exit as Twitter CEO after finding replacement

Reuters

Elon Musk said on Tuesday he will step down as chief executive of Twitter after finding a replacement.

"I will resign as CEO as soon as I find someone foolish enough to take the job! After that, I will just run the software & servers teams," Mr. Musk tweeted.

This is the first time Mr. Musk has mentioned steeping down as chief of the social media platform, after Twitter users voted decisively in a poll for him to step down, which the billionaire launched on Sunday evening.

Wall Street calls for Mr. Musk to step down had been growing for weeks and recently even Tesla Inc. bulls have questioned his focus on the social media platform and whether that is distracting him from properly steering the electric vehicle business.

India said to plan stabilisation fund to bolster carbon market

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India is planning a stabilisation fund to keep prices of credits in its planned carbon market above a certain threshold, ensuring that they remain attractive for investors and that the market succeeds in cutting emissions, two government sources said.

Money in the fund would be used by a market regulator to buy carbon credits if prices fell too low, one of the officials said.

Consistent investor interest in credits and a floor under the price would be needed as sharp falls in the market could discourage industries from reducing carbon dioxide emissions, that official added.

Operational in 2026

Planning envisages the market becoming fully operational in 2026, covering 37% of the country's emissions, according to slides, seen by Reuters, that the Power Ministry has shown to stakeholders.

Details would be announced next year, said Samrat Sengupta, vice-president for new businesses and market strategy at carbon offsetter EKI Energy Ltd., which has been briefed by the government.

In creating a carbon market, a country sets limit on emissions and then allocates a corresponding quantity of tradable permits, or credits, to the emitters. The quantity reduces over time.

India may lead in digital tech in 2023, says Tech M

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Year 2023 has the potential to provide the impetus needed for India to become digitally ready and lead technological advancements for the world, Tech Mahindra said.

"I believe in [year] 2023, we will see significant progress in autonomous systems, 5G and green technology," Jagdish Mitra, Chief Strategy Officer and Head of Growth at the technology services provider said on Wednesday.

DGTR proposes anti-dumping levy on Indonesian viscose fibre

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has urged the Centre to reject the recommendation

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty (ADD) on viscose staple fibre being imported from Indonesia.

In a notification dated December 19, the DGTR recommended a levy of $0.512/kg as ADD. The DGTR said based on its recommendation, the Centre withdrew ADD on imports of viscose staple fibre in August last year.

While imports from China remained low, data showed that imports from Indonesia were increasing rapidly post the expiry of duty in August 2021. The imports in July 2022 were at an all-time high since the last four years compared with monthly numbers.

"Having examined the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry in the event of expiry of measures, the Authority considers it appropriate to recommend continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of the product under consideration from Indonesia," the DGTR said

"However, continuation of anti-dumping duty is not recommended on imports of product under consideration from China PR."

The Southern India Mills' Association has urged the Centre to reject the recommendation.

Apart from this, India has imposed anti-dumping duty on stainless steel tube imports from China.

'Auto-parts trade grew 35% in H1 FY23 to ₹2.65 lakh cr.'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's auto components sector grew by 34.8% to ₹2.65 lakh crore in first-half of 2022-23, riding on domestic demand, particularly from the passenger vehicles segment, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) said.

Component exports grew by 8.6% to $10.1 billion (₹79.03 lakh crore), while imports climbed 17.2% to $10.1 billion, ACMA said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,067	-1.03
US Dollar	82.84	-0.17
Gold	55,261	0.95
Brent oil	81.76	3.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3901.95	-263.35
Adani Ports	857.65	-26.60
Apollo Hosp	4766.20	169.55
Asian Paints	3069.65	-12.50
Axis Bank	932.30	-17.45
Bajaj Auto	3611.05	-2.55
Bajaj Finserv	1581.80	-33.85
Bajaj Finance	6526.70	-116.15
Bharti Airtel	814.00	-14.95
BPCL	334.10	-6.15
Britannia Ind	4418.85	-90.20
Cipla	1128.00	36.85
Coal India	223.85	-2.25
Divis Lab	3518.75	167.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4407.55	37.80
Eicher Motors	3273.25	-40.20
Grasim Ind	1732.90	-26.05
HCL Tech	1040.35	10.65
HDFC	2656.85	-43.45
HDFC Bank	1617.60	-15.80
HDFC Life	575.40	-4.40
Hero MotoCorp	2757.45	-15.10
Hindalco	457.15	0.10
Hind Unilever	2666.20	-8.35
ICICI Bank	892.25	-17.45
IndusInd Bank	1201.80	-26.85
Infosys	1509.55	2.25
ITC	335.15	-5.00
JSW Steel	743.10	-2.70
Kotak Bank	1814.60	-32.50
L&T	2146.30	-16.95
M&M	1265.70	-9.55
Maruti Suzuki	8350.40	-173.95
NestleIndia	20314.20	178.65
NTPC	167.95	-1.80
ONGC	143.50	-2.35
PowerGrid Corp	216.05	-1.25
Reliance Ind	2584.50	-37.30
SBI Life	1234.35	3.10
State Bank	593.40	-11.05
Sun Pharma	1005.60	17.25
TataConsumerProduct	802.60	-5.70
Tata Motors	402.60	-7.90
Tata Steel	109.40	-1.55
TCS	3268.55	24.60
Tech Mahindra	1026.05	8.10
Titan	2489.60	-18.55
UltraTech Cement	6950.70	-147.30
UPL	754.90	0.05
Wipro	389.50	0.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.61	82.93
Euro	87.69	88.04
British Pound	100.11	100.54
Japanese Yen (100)	62.61	62.87
Chinese Yuan	11.85	11.89
Swiss Franc	89.19	89.54
Singapore Dollar	61.09	61.33
Canadian Dollar	60.62	60.88
Malaysian Ringitt	18.61	18.70
Australian Dollar	55.17	55.43

Source:Indian Bank

Sport

Gritty Aman rallies twice to keep the 57kg title

NATL. WRESTLING

Y.B. Sarangi
VISAKHAPATNAM

On top: Sujeet (blue) trounced Utkarsh to win his maiden crown in 65kg category.K.R. DEEPAK

World under-23 champion Aman Sehrawat fought back to win his semifinal and final bouts to retain the men's freestyle 57kg title on the opening day of the National wrestling championships at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

The gritty Aman, hailing from the Chhatrasal *akhara* in Delhi, showcased his attacking game to wriggle out of tough situations.

Against Atish Todkar, who took the lead who thrice, Aman relied on his superb endurance and engaging skills to manage an 11-7 victory in the semifinals. He rallied from 5-6 to effect three takedowns against Udit in the final while posting a 11-6 win.

Sahil stuns Satyawart

Punjab wrestler Sahil upset Commonwealth Games and multiple Asian championships medallist Satyawart Kadian.

Sahil fought back to take a 4-3 lead with two minutes to go and showed his strong defence and swift counterattacks to secure a 6-3 verdict in 97kg final.

World junior bronze medallist Sujeet Kalkal posted a convincing 10-0 win over Utkarsh Kale inside the first period for his maiden crown in 65kg.

On his debut, Sagar Jaglan defeated the experienced Narsingh Yadav 11-0 in the 74kg title clash.

The medallists: Men's freestyle: 57kg: 1. Aman Sehrawat (RSPB), 2. Udit (Har), Rahul (Del) & Atish Todkar (Mah). **61kg:** 1. Pankaj (SSCB), 2. Rahul (Mah), 3. Ravinder (Har) & Suraj Kakate (RSPB); **65kg:** 1. Sujeet Kalkal (Har), 2. Utkarsh Kale (RSPB), 3. Jaskaran Singh (Pun) & Ravinder (SSCB); **74kg:** 1. Sagar Jaglan (Har), 2. Narsingh Yadav (Mah), 3. Pritam (RSPB) & Yash Tushir (Del); **86kg:** 1. Vicky (Har), 2. Jonty Kumar (UP), 3. Sanjeet (SSCB) & Rahul Rathi (RSPB). **92kg:** 1. Prithviraj (SSCB), 2. Parveen (RSPB), 3. Parveen Kumar (Har) & Anil (Del); **97kg:** 1. Sahil (Pun), 2. Satyawart Kadian (RSPB), 3. Kapil (UP) & Sahil (Del); **125kg:** 1. Dinesh (SSCB), 2. Akash Antil (UP), 3. Dharminder (Pun) & Anirudh Kumar (Del).

Preeti stuns Worlds bronze medallist Jamuna

BOXING

Sports Bureau

Haryana's Preeti stunned World championships bronze medallist Jamuna Boro in a 54kg preliminary round bout on the second day of the National women's boxing championships in Bhopal on Wednesday. Preeti came up with a superb performance to defeat Jamuna. The referee had to stop the contest in the third and declare Preeti the winner.

Punjab's Suvidha Bhagat and Madhya Pradesh's Radha Patidar put up fine performances to reach the pre-quarterfinals. While

Preeti.

Suvidha outsmarted Jharkhand's Chandu 5-0 in a 48kg bout, local favourite Radha gave a dominant display to record a comfortable victory by an identical margin against Himachals Ritu in 52kg.

Important results (preliminary rounds): 48kg: Suvidha Bhagat (Pun) bt Chandu (Jha) 5-0, S. Kalaivani (TN) bt Rashi Birla (Del) 5-0; **50kg:** Isha Thakur (HP) bt Supriya Kumari (Cht) 5-0, Kalpana (Har) bt Bhabani Barik (Odi) 5-0, Kampi Boro (Asm) bt Priya Misra (Guj) 4-3, Anamika (RSPB) bt Sushma Tamang (Sik) RSC, Komal (Pun) bt P. Tanuja (Cht) RSC; **52kg:** Hetal Dama bt Chayanika Sah (Utk) 5-0, Radha Patidar (MP) bt Ritu (HP) 5-0, Tai Tutu (Aru) bt Diya Bache (Mah) 4-1, Rosemary Chanu (Man) bt Babita Singh (Asm) 4-1.

54kg: Arishi Khanam (Raj) bt Tredicia (Meg) 5-0; Shiksha (RSPB) bt Sandeep Kaur (Pun) 3-2; Preeti (Har) bt Jamuna Boro (Asm) RSC; **57kg:** Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Sushmita Nayak (Cht) RSC; **75kg:** Meena Rani (RSPB) bt Gouri Singh (UP) RSC; **75kg:** Arundhati Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Salakha Singh Sansanwat (Del) 5-0; **81kg:** Saweety Boora (Har) bt Chandan Choudahry (Raj) RSC.

PRIDE AND JOY

Morocco World Cup team arrives home to cheerful welcome

Tens of thousands of Moroccans thronged the capital on Tuesday to welcome home the national football team, the first Arab or African squad ever to reach the semifinals of a World Cup. The team and coach Walid Regragui waved from an open-topped bus as they were driven from the airport and around central Rabat.

FLYING HIGH

Argentina players ditch bus for chopper ride over Buenos Aires

Argentina's World Cup winners were forced to abandon their open-top bus parade around the city due to massive crowds, the presidency said on Tuesday. "The World Champions are flying over the parade route in helicopters because it was impossible to continue on the ground," presidential spokeswoman Gabriela Cerruti said.

BACK IN ACTION

Mbappe returns to training days after World Cup disappointment

France star Kylian Mbappe returned to training with PSG on Wednesday just three days after he ended up on the losing side despite scoring a hat-trick in the World Cup final. Although PSG players have been given 10 days off, Mbappe was pictured at the French champion's training ground.

BIG LEAP

Axar climbs to 18th, Kuldeep jumps 19 spots to 49th in ICC rankings

India all-rounder Axar Patel jumped 20 spots to reach a career-best 18th position while spinner Kuldeep Yadav catapulted 19 places to 49th in the latest ICC Test rankings released on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the injured Jasprit Bumrah (4th) and R. Ashwin (5th) continued their stay in top five.

Spin trial awaits India as Bangladesh hopes to avoid a clean sweep

Shakib, fit to resume all-rounder duties, will look to combine with Taijul on what is expected to be a more spin-friendly surface than the one in Chattogram; hosts bolstered by the return of Taskin; visitors sweat on Rahul's fitness after he injures his hand during training

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

Not all matches are won in the first innings. But very many are lost. It is this threat that Bangladesh has to guard against to prevent a clean sweep when it welcomes India to the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium for the second and final Test from Thursday.

In Chattogram, the visitors were 48 for three in the first innings, only to be let off the hook. Bangladesh then collapsed for 150 in its opening essay to hand India the initiative, which K.L. Rahul & Co. capitalised on to record a thumping 188-run victory.

In contrast to the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium wicket, which eased up for batting after a tricky first day, the one in Mirpur is expected to be more spin-friendly.

South African legend Allan Donald, who is the hosts' fast-bowling coach, confirmed the same on match-eve, and even gladdened a few local hearts with the news that skipper Shakib Al Hasan was fit to resume his all-rounder duties.

The 35-year-old bowled just 12 overs of his left-arm spin in the first Test because of a rib injury, and the hope is for him to combine well with the in-form Taijul Islam. The Indian nets, predictably, had a fair share of left-arm spin, with Kuldeep Yadav and a local net bowler feeding the batters enough.

Strong batting line-up

But regardless of the strength of the Bangladesh bowling - which will also be bolstered by speedster Taskin Ahmed's return - the Indian batting line-up remains formidable.

That it managed to win the first Test without two of its best batters in Rahul and Virat Kohli getting big runs is enough evidence that there are higher gears it can shift into.

Rohit Sharma's unavailability means Shubman Gill will get a chance to build on his hugely satisfying century, albeit on what is expected to be a more testing wicket. That Shreyas Iyer, arguably India's best player of spin, is in fine fettle after an excellent, match-turning 86 should give confidence.

Doing the hard yards: Kohli will be keen to blow away the Bangladesh bowlers, especially spinners. AP

Skipper Rahul had a scare when he had to stop batting during Wednesday's training after being hit on his right hand off a throwdown. He winced in pain, dropped the bat and shook his hand vigorously and was soon attended to by the medical staff. But batting coach Vikram Rathour, in his pre-match media briefing, said that it didn't "look serious."

Abhimanyu Easwaran is the reserve opener should Rahul not be able to play, and the Bengal batter was active in the nets, under the watchful eyes of both Rahul Dravid and Paras Mhambrey.

The bowling will pick itself, with the spin trio of R. Ashwin, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav expected to do a bulk of the heavy lifting as India seeks vital World Test Championship points. Bangladesh can ill-afford the kind of impatience it displayed in the first innings of the opening Test.

It can take a leaf out of Zakir Hasan's notebook, whose century on debut was a top-draw performance. But Zakir himself will be a pursued man now and a sophomore's test is the toughest there is.

The teams (from):

India: K.L. Rahul (Capt.), Cheteshwar Pujara (Vice-Capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, K.S. Bharat, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Saurabh Kumar and Jaydev Unadkat.

Bangladesh: Shakib Al Hasan (Capt.), Litton Das (Vice-Capt.), Mahmudul Hasan, Najmul Hossain, Mominul Haque, Yasir Ali, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nurul Hasan, Mehidy Hasan, Taijul Islam, Khaled Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Zakir Hasan, Rejaur Rahman Raja and Nasum Ahmed.

Umpires: Chris Brown & SIS Saikat.

Match starts at 9 a.m. IST.

A good performance at Chattogram overall: Rathour

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

India's batting coach Vikram Rathour stated that the visitors' all-round effort in the opening Test in Chattogram will stand them in good stead as it prepares to encounter a more spin-friendly wicket here.

"They [Bangladesh] are a decent bowling unit without any a doubt," Rathour said, on Wednesday. "[But] we are really confident with the way our batters have been batting. It was a good Test as a team. We batted well definitely, but we bowled well too.

"It was a tough surface to get 20 wickets. It was slow and low, especially in the second innings. It was good to see [Cheteshwar] Pujara and [Shubman] Gill get hundreds. It was a good performance overall."

Give it all

Bangladesh is set to welcome its best fast bowler Taskin Ahmed, who was rested for the opening Test. Fast-bowling coach Allan Donald said that the dry conditions shouldn't be a deterrent.

"I have always used the reference of the England fast bowlers' mindset in Pakistan, how they get themselves involved in the contest." Donald said. "Despite three spinners, you have a free ride to be a bit more expansive as a quick. You can put everything on the table for [say] four overs."

"If you saw how [Mohd.] Siraj or Umesh [Yadav] bowled, they either went very short or attacking. It is not easy to duck on these pitches. So if you have a bit of pace, you can be a little more expansive and aggressive."

It has been a year of struggle for Bangladesh - just one win from nine outings - and the South African said his side was desperate for a win.

"We want to win. It doesn't matter where you play India, you put that in your highest order of achievements. The second innings batting [in the first Test] is a blueprint for us. The young man [Zakir Hasan] has surprised many. He showed that he can take on the very best bowlers and has been a terrific breath of fresh air.

"A lot of people including me want to go home for a delayed Christmas with a win under our belt."

India showed it can give Australia a fight and a fright

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Harleen... driving the game forward. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The five-match women's T20I series between India and Australia, which concluded at the Brabourne Stadium on Tuesday, proved several points.

That the current Australian women's team just is too good for the rest of the world, regardless of the format. The Women in Yellow are too dominant with bat and ball and there is an aura of invincibility about them. They resemble Clive Lloyd's West Indies team of the 1980s. In the final match, they were reduced to 67 for four in 9.4 overs but ended up with a total of 196 for four.

That India is one side that could give the Australian women a strong fight. The Women in Blue chased a tall total and took the second match to a Super Over, which they won to end the visitors' unbeaten run that had stretched for over a year.

Deserve more attention

That India's fringe players deserve more attention from the selectors. For instance, leg-spinning all-rounder Devika Vaidya who performed well on her return to the T20I side after eight years, or the way left-arm seamer Anjali Sarvani bowled on batting-friendly tracks in what was her maiden international series; she had been playing domestic cricket for close to a decade.

That Richa Ghosh's power-hitting could add another dimension to India's middle-order. The wicket-keeper is turning into a finisher who could deliver some mighty blows when the team badly needs them. A six off the first ball provided India a perfect start in the Super Over.

That Grace Harris could send shivers down the spine of bowlers in women's cricket around the globe. She doesn't hit a cricket ball, she clobbers it.

That Harleen Deol, who can also bowl leg spin, is an interesting option for India. In the only innings she got to bat in the series, she made 24 off 16 balls before getting run out.

The would-be owners of the women's IPL franchises would have realised that there is an appetite for women's cricket when more than 45,000 spectators turned up to watch India stun Australia in the Super Over finish at Navi Mumbai's D.Y. Patil Stadium in the second game of the series.

'I felt hunger for the first time in my life'

Associated Press
BERLIN

Boris Becker. AFP

Tennis great Boris Becker tearfully recounted the moment the door of his single-occupancy cell at Britain's notorious Wandsworth prison closed for the first time, speaking publicly after serving eight months for bankruptcy offences.

"It was the loneliest moment I've ever had in life," Becker said in an interview with German broadcaster SAT.1 that aired Tuesday, recalling how hours earlier he had been unable to say farewell to his loved ones before being led downstairs to the courtroom jail.

The three-time Wimbledon champion was sentenced to 30 months in prison in April for illicitly transferring large amounts of money and hiding assets after he was declared bankrupt. Becker would normally have had to serve half of his sentence before being eligible for release, but was released early under a fast-track deportation program for foreign nationals.

Arriving in Wandsworth, the 55-year-old Becker said he feared attacks by other inmates.

"The many films I saw beforehand didn't help," he said.

Becker said prison authorities appeared to have tried to ensure his safety, allocating him a single cell and getting three experienced inmates – or "listeners" – to guide him in his new life behind bars.

That included coping with the lack of food, Becker said, as prison fare was largely restricted to rice, potatoes and sauce. "Sunday roasts" consisted of a chicken drumstick, he said.

"I felt hunger for the first time in my life," said Becker.

Violence was a problem, he said, recounting instances at Wandsworth and later at HMP Huntercombe where inmates threatened to harm him until others stepped in.

In November, fellow prisoners organised several cakes for his birthday, Becker said.

"I've never experienced such solidarity in the free world," he said.

Poor treatment meted out to hockey legends at World Cup Trophy tour

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

The hockey World Cup Trophy tour event at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here on Wednesday witnessed an unpleasant incident as hockey legends V. Baskaran, B.P. Govinda, Leslie Fernandez and V.J. Philips were denied access to the guests' podium.

After an exhibition match, the trophy was showcased and handed over to Kerala Hockey by Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Tamil Nadu Minister for youth welfare & sports development.

While the politicians, hockey administrators and Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) officials were escorted to the podium, the former players were sidelined.

It was then that Baskaran appealed for a dignified treatment. He said that the hockey players felt insulted for being invited and then ignored.

"Is this a hockey function or what?" he fumed. He demanded that they, especially the World Cup winners (Govinda, Leslie and Philips), be seated in the front row on the podium. Baskaran, captain of India's 1980 Moscow Olympics gold-winning team, then took the matter to the sports minister. The latter ensured that seats were arranged for the hockey players on the dais.

Fighting his case: Baskaran brings to the attention of the sports minister the sidelining of the hockey players. K.V. SRINIVASAN

Philips dismayed

Philips, in his speech, said: "They (the organisers) forgot how to honour the World Cup winners! I'm extremely distressed. From among the eight crore population of Tamil Nadu, only three of us have won the World Cup and not many have even played in it.

"I've played three World Cups, I wasn't even recognised and they don't even find me worthy of respect. From playing barefoot on this very ground, I've donned the India colours for around 12 years and represented the country in two Olympics apart from the World Cups. If people from our State don't respect us, where else will we get respect? It's very disturbing."

Udhayanidhi assured the hockey heroes that such an incident won't happen in the future.

INBRIEF

Fury, Usyk agree unification bout, says promoter Arum

Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk have agreed to fight each other next in a world heavyweight boxing title unification bout, promoter Bob Arum said. Fury defeated Derek Chisora for the third time in his career to retain his WBC title earlier this month. "The two have agreed to fight each other next," 91-year-old Arum said on Tuesday.

FIA forbids F1 drivers from issuing political statements

Formula One drivers will need permission from the sport's governing body to display political or religious statements starting in 2023. The FIA's international sporting code, which governs the running of motorsport competitions, has been updated with new clauses under "breach of rules".

Sreenidi, RoundGlass post narrow wins in I-League

A 47th minute goal from Ramhlunchhunga helped Sreenidi Deccan hand NEROCA FC its sixth defeat of the season in an I-League match in Imphal on Wednesday. In another match at Panchkula, host RoundGlass Punjab beat Gokulam Kerala 1-0. Luka Majcen netted the winner in the 75th minute.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs India: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Samarth notches up another ton

Pondicherry spinner Ankit plays on the patience of the batters to return a six-wicket haul but Karnataka takes control of proceedings

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

R. Samarth scored his second successive hundred to put Karnataka in a good position on the second day of its Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' match against Pondicherry here on Wednesday.

Samarth's composed 137, which follows an unbeaten 119 in the previous outing, helped Karnataka take an innings lead of 134 runs. The home team then reduced Pondicherry to 58 for three to sit on an overall advantage of 76 runs.

Samarth showed fine temperament in his 242-ball vigil. He did appear nervous in the nineties, as the Pondicherry fielders closed in. The pressure was released when Samarth cracked an on-drive past mid-on to reach his 12th First Class ton.

Samarth looked good to pile it on, but he succumbed to a trap set by Paras Dogra. Bowling slow-medium floaters wide outside off, Dogra tempted Samarth to slice a cut to slip.

Nikin Jose looked good for his 30, crunching a few back-foot punches to the mid-wicket boundary. A rush of blood, however, saw the young batter stumped by left-arm spinner Ankit Sharma. Ankit, who had a great outing with six wickets, applied the pressure by keeping things tight and playing on the patience of the batters.

Composed: Samarth showed fine temperament during his long vigil. SUDHAKARA JAIN

No big knock

Manish Pandey (45, 78b, 4x4, 1x6) played a few delightful attacking shots, but could not convert to a big knock.

Apart from Pandey, none of the Karnataka batters were keen to score briskly and force a dominant outright win.

Pondicherry's second essay did not begin well. Opener K. Aravind was caught superbly by Shreyas Gopal, who stuck his right hand out to grab a sweetly-timed flick at square-leg.

Neyan Kangayan (24) was taken well by wicket-keeper B.R. Sharath. As play drew to a close, off-spiner K. Gowtham prised out Paras Dogra leg-before.

The scores: Pondicherry — 1st innings: 170.
Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Rohit b Dogra 137, Mayank Agarwal c Karthick b Sharma 51, Ronit More lbw b Ankit 0, Vishal Onat st. Karthick b Ankit 4, Nikin Jose c Dogra b Ankit 30, Manish Pandey lbw b Viknesh 45, Shreyas Gopal lbw b Viknesh 12, B.R. Sharath c Aravind b Ankit 9, K. Gowtham lbw b Ankit 10, V. Vyshak b Udeshi 1, Vidwath Kaverappa (not out) 0; Extras (b-1, w-1, nb-3): 5; Total (in 93.2 overs): 304.
Fall of wickets: 1-111, 2-111, 3-131, 4-194, 5-249, 6-280, 7-285, 8-303, 9-304.
Pondicherry bowling: Ashwath 16-3-54-0, Mathew 16.3-3-56-0, Udeshi 23.2-2-80-1, Viknesh 6-1-32-2, Ankit 22-5-60-6, Dogra 9.3-1-21-1.
Pondicherry — 2nd innings: Neyan Kangayan c Sharath b Vyshak 24, Aravind c Shreyas b More 1, Jay Pande (batting) 25, Paras Dogra lbw b Gowtham 3, S. Ashwath (batting) 3; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 27 overs): 58.
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-41, 3-48.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 8-6-13-0, More 6-3-9-1, Vyshak 7-2-13-1, Gowtham 6-1-21-1.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND TWO, DAY TWO)

Elite: Group-A: At Sovima: Uttar Pradesh 551/4 decl. in 117 overs (Dhruv Jurel 249, Rinku Singh 127 n.o.) vs. Nagaland 136 in 42.4 overs (Shivam Sharma 7/59) & 44/6 in 14 overs.
At Kolkata: Bengal 310 in 78.2 overs & 89/1 in 19 overs vs. Himachal Pradesh 130 in 46.5 overs (Prashant Chopra 71 n.o., Shahbaz Ahmed 5/32).
At Dehradun: Odisha 213 vs. Uttarakhand 308/3 in 94 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 174 batting, Swapnil Singh 60 batting).
At Vadodara: Baroda 615 in 158 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 195, Vishnu Solanki 64, Priyanshu Moliya 144 n.o.) vs. Haryana 70/1 in 22 overs.
Group-B: At Guwahati: Delhi 439 in 110.1 overs (Dhruv Shorey 252 n.o.) vs. Assam 158/4 in 44 overs (Rishav Das 71 batting).
At Rajkot: Maharashtra 472/7 in 173 overs (Naushad Shaikh 101, Ankit Bawne 96, Saurabh Nawale 72, Akshay Palkar 51 batting) vs. Saurashtra.
At Coimbatore: Andhra 297 in 100.1 overs (Karan Shinde 55) vs. Tamil Nadu (TN) 273/4 in 77 overs (Sai Sudharsan 113, B. Aparajith 88).
At Mumbai: Mumbai 651/6 decl. in 127.2 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 204, Sarfaraz Khan 126 n.o.) vs. Hyderabad 173/6 in 50 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 40, Rohit Rayudu 72 batting, Shams Mulani 5/76).
Group-C: At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 386 in 128.1 overs (Saurabh Tiwary 65, Kumar Kushagra 96, Darshan Misal 4/68) vs. Goa 99/4 in 48 overs (Sumiran Amonkar 41, Amogh Sunil Desai 41).
At Delhi: Services 213 vs. Chhattisgarh 280/5 in 86.5 overs (Amandeep Khare 66 batting, Ajay Mandal 101 batting).
At Bengaluru: Pondicherry 170 & 58/3 in 27 overs vs. Karnataka 304 in 93.2 overs (R. Samarth 137, Manish Pandey 45, Ankit Sharma 6/60).
At Jaipur: Rajasthan 337 in 97.1 overs (Salman Khan 74) vs. Kerala 268/8 in 73 overs (Sachin Baby 109 batting, Sanju Samson 82).
Group-D: At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 309 in 95.2 overs (Akshat Raghuwanshi 77, Sandeep Sharma 7/93) bt Chandigarh 57 in 24 overs (Kumar Kartikeya 6/20) & 127 in 44.3 overs (Ankit Kaushik 69, Saransh Jain 5/37, Kumar Kartikeya 4/44). **Points: M.P. 7 (14), Chandigarh 0 (1).**
At Ahmedabad: Gujarat 307 in 104.3 overs (Chintan Gaja 41, Abid Mushtaq 4/104) vs. Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) 135 in 43.5 overs (Fazil Rashid 51 n.o., Siddharth Desai 6/38) & 83/3 in 29 overs.
At Nagpur: Vidarbha 264 vs. Tripura 290/7 in 92 overs (Bishal Ghosh 48, Sridam Paul 47, Sudip Chatterjee 83, Wriddhiman Saha 66, Yash Thakur 4/39).
Plate: At Shillong: Sikkim 140 & 90 in 34.1 overs (Dippu Sangma 4/26, Rajesh Bishnoi 5/19) lost to Meghalaya 153 in 45.4 overs (Palzor Tamang 5/43) & 78/0 in 8 overs (Raj Biswa 56 n.o.); **Points: Meghalaya 7 (13), Sikkim 0 (6).**
At Anand: Arunachal Pradesh 63 & 157 in 48.4 overs (Kumar Nyompu 64 n.o., Avinash Yadav 4/42) lost to Mizoram 338 in 90 overs (Taruwar Kohli 203, Nabam Abo 4/75). **Points: Mizoram 7 (7), Arunachal 0 (0).**
At Ahmedabad: Bihar 311 in 97.4 overs (Rex Rajkumar 4/62) vs. Manipur 229/6 in 81 overs (Prafullomani Singh 75).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: The Vels University (Chennai) team that won the AIU South Zone inter-university men's kabaddi championship, hosted by Bengaluru City University and St. Francis College, recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HAL FC posts win

HAL FC defeated AGORC 2-0 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here.

The results: HAL FC 2 (Devadath 29, Sujal Munda 34) bt AGORC 0; Income Tax 3 (Shanky Singh 42, Praveen Kumar 43, Vishnu Prasad 45) bt Bangalore Gunners FC 1 (Cyril Justin 32).

Parikrma Centre For Learning reigns supreme

Parikrma Centre For Learning won the overall trophy in the Ryan Minithon hosted by the Ryan Group of Institutions here.

Over 2,000 students from 23 schools competed in the running event.

*Terms and conditions apply. Images are for representation purpose. ^Complimentary 4-years Service Value Package (SVP) applicable on all Taigun variants except Taigun 1.5 L GT DSG MY 23. ^Complimentary 4-years Service Value Package (SVP) applicable only on Virtus HL variant. The SVP cannot be exchanged or redeemed for cash. No cash claim will be made in lieu of the same. No additional coupon/benefits applicable on this free 4-year SVP package. Maximum benefits up to ₹55 000 applicable on select variant. Exchange and Loyalty only on select variants. Loyalty bonus is for individual customers only. Exchange Benefits at the sole discretion of authorised dealers only. 1% cess extra for Kerala. **Forever Care includes 4 Year Standard Warranty, 4 Year Roadside Assistance and 3 Free Services - 1 000 kilometers, 7 500 kilometers and 15 000 kilometers service only labour charges are free. This offer cannot be clubbed with any other offer. Features and accessories shown may not be a part of standard equipment and are subject to change without prior notice . #Ventilated seats now available also on Taigun GT Plus. Actual car colour may vary. The dark shade on the glass is due to the lighting effect. For further details, please visit our authorised dealership only. To know more on the schemes, please visit your nearest Volkswagen dealership, or log on to volkswagen.co.in

Authorised Dealers: Volkswagen Bangalore North: Thanisandra: Mobile: 9100995753; Old Airport Road (Sales Point): Mobile: 9606988828; **Volkswagen Bangalore:** Hosur Road: Mobile: 9513964015; **Volkswagen Whitefield:** B. Narayanapura: Mobile: 9900010727, 9900021210; **Volkswagen Palace Cross:** Mobile: 9686601249; **Volkswagen Bangalore North:** Hebbal: Mobile: 9100995774; **Volkswagen Bangalore:** JP Nagar: Mobile: 7625014773; **Volkswagen Bangalore Central:** Richmond Road: Mobile: 9606988828; **Volkswagen Palace Cross:** Victoria Road (DWA): Mobile: 9900035187; Rajajinagar (Sales Point): Mobile: 9900049174; Hesaraghatta (Sales Point): Mobile: 9900049174; **Volkswagen Tumkur:** Sira Main Rd: Mobile: 9100919214; **Volkswagen Hubli:** (0836) 2220000, 7760984531; **Volkswagen Belgaum:** (0831) 2477777, 9900022688, 9900022691; **Volkswagen Palace cross:** Mysore Road: 9900053496; **Volkswagen Mangalore:** (0824) 2433430, 2433530, 7829142030; **Volkswagen Mysore:** 9611586240, 9611586247.

A BG-BGE